Ireland vol 2 4.

A

DISSERTATION

ON THE

INLARGEMENT

OF

TILLAGE,

The ERECTING of

Public GRANARIES,

AND THE

Regulating, Employing, and Supporting the POOR in this KINGDOM:

Addreſſed to his GRACE the

LORD PRIMATE of all *Ireland.*

Salus Populi Suprema Lex Eſto.
CICERO, Lib. 3. *de Legibus.*

DUBLIN:

Printed by S. POWELL,

For T. MOORE, at *Eraſmus's-Head*, in *Dame-ſtreet*, Bookſeller. MDCCXLI.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A

DISSERTATION

ON THE

INLARGEMENT

OF

TILLAGE, &c.

My LORD,

CICERO, the great *Roman* Orator, having, in his *ſecond* Book concerning *Laws*, explained ſuch as related to religion and the worſhip of the Gods, proceeds in his *third* to give an account of thoſe that related to a *Republic* and to its *Magiſtrates*; and, among others, has the *Axiom* I have choſen to prefix to this *Diſſertation*, which, he affirms, he took out of the antient *Laws* of the *Roman* nation, delivered in the very words of the Law itſelf, and addreſſes it particularly to the *Roman*

Conſuls, who, though but annual Magiſtrates, yet were they for that time inveſted with the ſupreme power and command over the whole commonwealth, namely, " *Let the Safety of the People*," or, as a * great Author explains it, " *The Public Good, be the ſupreme Law.*

To *You*, My Lord, who have ſo worthily filled the place of one of our *Conſuls*, or *Lords-Juſtices*, for many years, and always made the *Public Good* your *ſupreme Law*, a Country-Gentleman, in a remote *Province*, and humble ſtation, diveſted of all prejudice, and without any ſordid or private view, begs leave to addreſs himſelf for the *Public Good* of the kingdom, but in language far different from the oratorial ſtrains of *Cicero*. To *You*, who have been ſo well acquainted with all the various diſeaſes of our unhappy country, and have ſo often, like a ſkilful *phyſician*, even ſometimes againſt our wills, been ſo good as to preſcribe healing remedies for, and adminiſter them to, us. To *You*, I ſay, he begs leave to addreſs himſelf, upon a preſumption that, out of that benevolence which is perpetually overflowing in good deſigns for the whole race of mankind, your *Grace* will receive this addreſs with that candour and humanity ſo peculiar to You, and not only ſhelter under your protection a well-intended, however imperfect, Eſſay; but alſo endeavour to promote, and carry into execution, whatſoever ſhall appear reaſonable and conducive in it to the *Public Good*. For, it is but too well known, That matters of this nature muſt firſt be eſpouſed by *great Men* who have power and influence, as well as inclination, to ſet others to work; otherwiſe, they will go but heavily on, though never ſo *reaſonable* and *neceſſary* in themſelves; and ſeldom or never be crown'd with ſucceſs; eſpecially, in a kingdom, wherein, of all nations of the

* Sanderſ. de Conſc. Præl. 10.

the world, that *Maxim*, " *That what is every body's* " *buſineſs is no body's*," moſt univerſally prevails.

It is evident, that *Ireland* has been in a *conſumption* for ſeveral years paſt, and appears to every conſidering perſon at preſent, to be reduced to ſuch a ſtate of *weakneſs* as renders our *recovery* very difficult, though, by your *Grace's* influence, and the interpoſition of the *legiſlature*, not altogether impoſſible; and yet, like people in that *flattering* diſtemper, ſo inſenſible are the moſt among us of our danger, which is always deemed a *fatal* ſymptom, that, inſtead of being thankful for ſo friendly an office, we are often angry with thoſe who kindly warn us of it, or offer to preſcribe us any remedy though never ſo rational and conducive to our welfare. The kingdom has for a conſiderable time been *gradually*, but not by *ſlow degrees*, waſting in its *riches*, *ſtrength*, and *power*. For, can any man, that is acquainted with the ſtate of *Ireland*, ſafely affirm, that it is not at preſent in a declining *languiſhing* condition? Are not rents of houſes in cities and towns daily ſinking; or the houſes becoming uninhabited? Are not the rents of *gentlemen's eſtates* in the country falling; or ill paid? Is not *money* in general *commerce* growing more and more ſcarce every day? Nay, do not our *trading* people univerſally complain, that our *caſh* is almoſt exhauſted? Does not the *number* of our *poor* greatly increaſe for want of employments, while our *capacity* to ſupport them is every day growing leſs? Are not ſeveral of our large and once-flouriſhing Towns, eſpecially in the *ſouth*, almoſt ruined by the decay of their manufactures? Have we not for two years paſt been in deep diſtreſs for want of *corn*, and the common *neceſſaries* of life? Has not one *third part*, by a moderate computation, of the common people, periſhed by fevers, fluxes, or cruel want; and conſequently, has not the King greatly ſuffered by ſuch a loſs of his ſubjects, the *number* and *welfare*

of the people being always deemed the ſtrength and riches of the crown? And, is not our *public revenue* conſiderably decreaſed, by which means the *public debt* of the nation muſt neceſſarily increaſe, and of courſe, become a burthen which neither we nor our poſterity will be able to bear? In a word, Are not all ranks, all orders, and all profeſſions of men among us, more or leſs ſenſible of our growing poverty and miſery, according to their different ſtations? This appears to me to be our condition: A condition indeed deplorable, as being not only very bad in itſelf, but the more dangerous, becauſe *few* appear to have a juſt apprehenſion of it, ſome ſitting ſtill as if in deſpair, others being too indolent to ſeek for redreſs, and many too conceited to accept of any information though never ſo rational and humbly offered; while another ſet of men, I mean the *Papiſts* and their Abettors, ſeem to be in pain for fear their country ſhould not be ruined; and uſe a great deal of *unnatural* induſtry to hinder the kingdom from ſeeing its danger or taking proper meaſures to prevent its deſtruction; while *they* themſelves are not only daily engroſſing what little *trade* remains, and conſequently the greateſt part of our *current caſh* into their own hands, with which they may upon occaſion aſſiſt our enemies, for want of liberty to make purchaſes, or take long leaſes; but are alſo ſpreading their erroneous *religion* and gathering ſtrength daily, eſpecially in the Provinces of *Munſter* and *Connaught*, where many *ſingle perſons* among them hold from *two* to *ten* thouſand acres of land *uncultivated*, or tennanted by none but *Papiſts*, in their own hands. But, are *Poverty*, *Slavery*, *Popiſh ſuperſtition*, and *loſs of Commerce*, things that ſeemed ſo dreadful to our forefathers, become mere *trifles* not worth our regard? Are *freedom*, *plenty*, our *religion*, and our *trade*, things ſo highly eſteemed by all the reſt of mankind, grown too inconſiderable to deſerve our care and concern?

If

If they be things of ſuch *vaſt* importance to our happineſs as thy have been hitherto eſteemed, does it not become every man among us carefully to attend to the preſent ſtate of the kingdom; to examine, whether it be in ſo bad a condition as I have repreſented it; and if it be, to exert himſelf with the utmoſt vigour for our *common* preſervation? In ſtorms at ſea, not only the ſhip's crew, but all the paſſengers on board rouze themſelves, and no hand is found too indolent to lend aſſiſtance for the common ſafety. The common-wealth is a *huge bark*, and when endangered, it is alike the duty and intereſt of every *individual* to do all in his power for its preſervation.

Now, in order to remedy, as far as lies in my power, the *poverty*, *miſery*, and various other *calamities* under which we at preſent labour, I propoſe in the following *Diſſertation* to ſhew.

I. That it is not only reaſonable, That we ſhould improve that trade in general, which, through our miſconduct, though in our own power, we fatally neglect; but alſo more particularly, That it is *abſolutely neceſſary*, and, in many reſpects, *highly advantageous* to the kingdom, that *Tillage* ſhould be increaſed by a *law*.

II. That it is not only prudent and expedient, but highly *neceſſary* and *beneficial* to *Ireland* in general, as well as to the particular *farmers* thereof, that *granaries* ſhould be erected in proper places throughout the kingdom at the *public* expence. And then,

III. I ſhall examine the *condition*, and ſuggeſt ſome *hints* for *regulating* the *poor* of *Ireland*, by *employing* ſome, and *ſupporting* others, according to their *ſeveral* capacities.

As to the Firſt,

That *Trade* in general contributes greatly to the *wealth* of any nation is a truth evident and clear enough, not only from the known *hiſtory* of nations, but from *arguments* founded in the *nature* and *reaſon* of the thing itſelf. For, by the former we are *aſſured*, that thus it has been in all *ages* and *countries*; and from the latter, it is demonſtrable, that thus it muſt be for ever, in caſe ſuch *trade* be *wiſely* managed.

If we examine the *hiſtory* of all the nations in the world, we ſhall find thoſe to have always been the moſt rich and flouriſhing (except ſuch as had *mines* of their own) which had the largeſt and moſt *extenſive* trade. No man who has ever read the *ſacred hiſtory*, or the hiſtory of the *Jews* by *Joſephus*, can be ignorant of the immenſe treaſures that king *David* and king *Solomon* brought home from foreign countries by their *commerce*. The great plenty of *gold* and *ſilver* under the reigns of thoſe two kings, eſpecially of the latter, would be almoſt incredible, did we not know the *hiſtorians*, who give us the account, to be *infallible*. If we look into antient *prophane* hiſtory, there we ſhall find, that the *Tyrians*, and their deſcendants, the *Carthaginians*, inrich'd themſelves by *trade* to a very great and ſurprizing degree. But, the effects of *Trade* and *Commerce* are not only evident enough from the hiſtories of former ages and remote countries, but from the preſent accounts which we have of *Europe:* For, therein we find, that wherever they have flouriſhed moſt, thoſe nations have conſtantly been the *richeſt* and moſt powerful. What is the cauſe of the great ſcarcity of *money* almoſt all over *Germany*, but the want of *Trade* and *Commerce?* How came the States of *Holland*, who have but a very ſmall country in extent, to abound with ſo many large, rich, and populous cities and towns; to be able to bear ſuch a prodigious

load

load of public taxes; and to be the great *exchange* of *Europe?* How came the *French* to be ſo *poor* before the improvement of their *trade*, and ſo very *rich* of late years, as to be in a condition, notwithſtanding their vaſt expences in maintaining an army of near two hundred thouſand men, in repairing fortifications, and erecting new *citadels* and *forts*, to lend money to a late neceſſitous emperor, to aſſiſt *Spain*, and to put ſuch large ſums into the funds of *England?* Their *trade* and *commerce* have done it all: That *trade* and *commerce* which they have by artifice and wiſe management got from *England* and *Ireland*, or rather, which both have *given*, and are daily *giving*, them, by their ſtrange conduct and miſmanagement. But, if we had not ſo much evidence from the hiſtories of *foreign* countries of the great *riches* ariſing from *trade* to a nation, the hiſtory of *England* alone might abundantly convince us of it. For, let any man go back, and conſider the times before the reign of *Henry* VII. and compare the quantity of *ſpecie* then in that nation and the price of labour, with the times of the late glorious King *William* and Queen *Anne*, when their *trade* flouriſhed in its higheſt proſperity. Let him then go on from the firſt *declenſion* of their *trade* to obſerve, how *money* gradually grew again leſs plenty, and labour cheaper as that gradually declined; and he will not be ignorant, that *trade* is the grand ſource of *riches* to any nation. I ſhall only beg leave to obſerve further on this head, that *Trade* greatly raiſes the value of *land*, and improves gentlemen's *eſtates*; for, the *number* of people that are employed and maintained by it, occaſions the land to be more improved, in order to ſupply thoſe people with proviſions; ſupports the *farmers* by conſuming the products of it; and cauſes a circulation of *commerce* in every branch thereof, beyond what can poſſibly be where there are *fewer* people, or the people have *leſs* money to expend. For which reaſons, thoſe parts of any

country

country where *trade* has flouriſhed moſt, have been, in *fact*, by far the beſt inhabited, cultivated, and improved. Of this we have a plain inſtance in *Holland*; nay, in our own kingdom, in the *North of* Ireland, which has been well inhabited, cultivated and improved, ſince the enlargement of the *Linnen-manufacture*, which flouriſhes in it: Whereas, the province of *Munſter*, for want of *trade*, *induſtry*, and *manufactures*, is almoſt waſte, unimproved, unpeopled. From all which *facts* it is evident and clear enough, that *Trade* is the *true* ſource of *riches* to any nation.

But, this truth does not appear from *facts* alone, but may be likewiſe clearly ſhewn from the *nature* and *reaſon* of the thing itſelf; that it for ever muſt be ſo, and cannot be otherwiſe. For, if a nation has no *mines* of its own to produce the *materials* of *money*, how is it poſſible for the people of ſuch nation to grow the *richer* by dealing with one another? They may, indeed, by *induſtry* improve the *products* of their own country, gather great quantities thereof into the poſſeſſion of individuals which might give them *power* and *diſtinction*, and may barter one thing for another; but, all this kind of *commerce* can never produce any *money* among them: No; but when the *products* of a country are exported to foreigners for *money*, this certainly brings into ſuch country ſo much *adventitious riches*. If theſe *products*, before *exportation*, be *manufactured*; then, the *labour* in manufacturing them is alſo added to their *natural* value; and, the more the *labour* is, the greater wealth ſuch *manufactured* goods bring into a nation; becauſe, foreigners pay for all that *labour*, as well as for the *original* materials of ſuch goods. Hence it follows, that it is a great detriment to any nation to ſuffer any kind of commodity, capable of being *manufactured*, to be exported, 'till *manufactured*. For inſtance; Is it not vaſtly detrimental to *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, that *wool* ſhould be either ſold

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or run to *France*, *Spain*, or any other country, *unmanufactured*; ſince they thereby loſe not only the whole benefit ariſing from *manufacturing* it at home, ſuch as the wages of *ſpinners*, *combers*, *dyers*, *weavers*, *merchants*, &c. but alſo thereby enable *foreign* countries to *manufacture* ſuch *wool*, and underſel us at all foreign markets where there is a demand for *woollen goods?* Is it not a vaſt detriment to *Ireland* in particular, to ſuffer *green hides* to be exported; becauſe, by preventing it, we ſhould ſend to other countries the greater quantity of *ſhoes*, and by that means gain ſo much *money* as the wages of the *workmen*, and the profit of the *tanners*, *maſters*, and *merchants*, out of each pair amounts to? Or, If a nation *imports* the *products* of another country, and *exports* them again *manufactured*, the *labour* of *manufacturing* is ſo much wealth brought into ſuch nation, deducting only the *original* price of the *materials* before they were manufactured. Now, as this clearly ſhews the true *riches* of a nation to ariſe from *trade* in general; ſo, it ſhews likewiſe, what *ſort* of *trade* or *commerce* it is that can moſt effectually produce them. If a country *trafficks* without bringing in *ſpecie*, it can never grow *richer* by it; and ſince its *riches* can be only in proportion to the quantity of *ſpecie* which its *trade* brings in: Hence it follows, that if the value of its *exports* are leſs upon the whole than the value of its *imports*, and the Traders receive not *ſpecie* for ſuch *exports*, the *balance* of *trade* being againſt them, they muſt be ſo far from growing *rich* by ſuch *trade*, that they muſt neceſſarily be beggar'd by it. Now, that this is the caſe of *Ireland*, is too true to be denied. For, upon examination, will it not appear, that the *balance* of *trade* with moſt countries we deal with is greatly againſt us? But, as *that trade* muſt be accounted *moſt pernicious* and deſtructive, wherein the *balance* is *moſt* againſt us, I ſhall therefore only mention our *trade* with *France* and *America*: "It is

"certain,"

" certain, ſays a very ingenious * *Member* of the *Houſe of Commons of* Ireland, who is ſaid to underſtand *trade* as well as any man in the kingdom, " that the *Balance* of *trade* between *Ireland* and " *France* is very much to the diſadvantage of *Ireland*. " This appeareth even upon the foot of the account. " But, it will appear yet more *diſadvantagious*, when " the *articles* of the account come to be conſidered. " All the commodities that are carried from *Ireland* " into *France*, are either *proviſions* neceſſary to the " life of man, or *materials* for *manufactures*. On " the other hand, the merchandizes brought from " *France* are ſuch as *feed luxury*, and are no way *ne-* " *ceſſary* to the people of *Ireland*, if we except *ſalt*, " which can be had from other countries, and is " neceſſary in curing the great quantities of beef, " butter, and raw hides, exported from *Ireland*, as " alſo in *fiſheries*, when they come to be ſet on foot. " But, *France* is ſo careful in managing their *trade* " with *Ireland*, that although it be permitted to " carry *Iriſh* beef into *France* in order to be ſent to " their *colonies*, where it ſeemeth to be abſolutely " neceſſary ; yet, the conſumption thereof in *France*, " or even in victualling their ſhips, is *prohibited*. " The *importation* of *butter* is not at all times per- " mitted from *Ireland* upon an equal foot with *Hol-* " *land*. And, it is very well known, that *fiſh* from " *Ireland* in many articles and circumſtances is *con-* " *traband*, although it be a *free trade* from *Holland*. " So little reaſon have the people of *Ireland* to be " fond of this branch of *trade* ; and ſo greatly have " they it in their *power* to render it more benefi- " cial."

As to *America*, nothing is more certain than that the *ballance* of *trade* is greatly againſt us. For, not to

* *David Bindon*, Eſq; in his Notes on the *Political Eſſay on Commerce*, Page 309.

to inſiſt on other articles, the wheat, flower, *&c.* which we imported for three years ending, *Lady-day* 1733, into *Ireland*, amounted at a medium yearly, to the ſum of 25950 l. only, which at that time was looked upon to be a great ſum, when in our own power to ſave it in the kingdom. For the three ſucceeding years, ending *Lady-day* 1736, they amounted to ſo large a ſum as 108031 l. one year with another. For the two following years, they amounted at leaſt to the annual ſum of 150,000l. And for the two laſt, if I am rightly informed, to 200,000 l. each year at leaſt. So that, in ten years laſt paſt, we have imported *corn*, *flower*, *meal*, &c. into *Ireland*, and principally from *America*, to the value of 1,201943 l. ſterling. Now, if the whole circulating *money* of the kingdom be juſtly computed not to exceed 800,000 l. at moſt; though ſome compute it not to be above 500,000l. Who can be ſurprized at the ſcarcity of *money*, and conſequently at the *deadneſs* of *trade*, in *Ireland*? Nay, is it not ſurprizing, that we have any *money* or *trade* at all? (Not to inſiſt on the vaſt ſums drawn away by our *abſentees* to other countries, which, according to the computation of an ingenious *gentleman* in his liſt of the *abſentees* of *Ireland*, amount to upwards of the ſum of 600,000 l. yearly; nor on the large ſums drawn away by our *rich Papiſts*, who, ſince the above computation was made, have withdrawn themſelves to other countries out of reſentment, becauſe the *legiſlature* would not permit them to *carry arms*, or for ſome *other* reaſon; nor on the *vaſt* ſums ſent abroad by thoſe among us who drink *French* wines, and deck themſelves with *Flanders-lace*, *Genoa ſilks*, and other *foreign* ornaments, and who therefore ought to be rank'd among our *abſentees*, though *preſent* with us;) I ſay, not to inſiſt on theſe *vaſt* ſums drawn from us; can it be ſurprizing, that we ſhould fall from *poverty* to *beggary*, by the prodigious and ſudden increaſe

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we have lately had in the *ſingle* article of our importation of corn, not to mention *Malt-liquor*? It is allowed by all wiſe *politicians*, " That a great decay in " the circulating caſh of any nation is a diſeaſe of " ſo mortal a nature in the *political* body, that it muſt " infallibly end in the *utter ruin* of the ſtate, if " ſome powerful remedy be not timely applied." If this be true, then it follows evidently, that *Ireland* is in a very deſperate condition at this juncture; but ſtill we have this comfort left, that the *cure* is very eaſy and obvious, to every impartial conſidering man among us, if it ſhould be thought proper to apply it. For, if our *money* be almoſt exhauſted by our conſtant great *importation* of corn and *Malt-liquor*, does not the remedy appear plain and obvious, and in our own power, namely, " To *increaſe and improve our tillage for the future*? One of our *Legiſlators* " obſerves, * that the *improvement* of *agriculture*, " and other neceſſary and uſeful induſtries, the *in-* " *creaſe* of inhabitants; and the procuring to the " ſociety a ſufficient quantity of the common meaſures of permutations, that is to ſay, of *money* " and its repreſentations, ought to be the *chief ob-* " *jects* of care in every country, where *polity* and " *commerce* are not left to the guidance of chance. " How defective the people of *Ireland* are, even " in the *principal article* of induſtry, which a *French* " author very properly calleth *the baſis of commerce*, " fully appeareth from the frequent or rather *conſtant* " *ſcarcity of corn* in this kingdom, whereby there is " a *neceſſity* of *importing* the corn of other countries " to the value of at leaſt 100,000 l. a year."

" This is too great a loſs to a nation whoſe whole " *exports* are not much above 1,100,000 l. *per ann.* " And then adds, that this *ſcarcity* always proceed-

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* *David Bindon*, Eſq; in his Preface to his Tranſlation of the *Political Eſſay on Commerce*, printed 1738. at which time there was the ſum of 100,000l. at leaſt, ſent yearly out of the Kingdom for Corn.

" eth from an error in *polity*, which may be eaſily " remedied, or rather eaſily prevented."

This plainly ſhews the great *neceſſity* of our *inlarging* and *improving* our *Tillage* in *Ireland*; but, this is not the *only* argument that may be offered on this head. I ſhall go further and ſhew, that it has not only been the *practice* of all *ages* and *wiſe ſtates* to *encourage* and *promote tillage*; but alſo that the *profit* and *advantage* ariſing from it above what can poſſibly ariſe from *paſture* among us in *Ireland*, muſt be exceeding great; and ſhall then point out ſeveral other *advantages* neceſſarily flowing from it to this kingdom under its preſent circumſtances; and therefore, that it ought to be *promoted*, *inlarged*, and *improved* by us.

If we conſider the condition of our *firſt parents* as repreſented by the *ſacred writers*, their lives after their *fall* muſt have been very laborious. The *ſentence* againſt them, which denounced " *That in the* " *ſweat of their brow, they ſhould eat bread*, muſt " have been *literally* fulfilled. No man can imagine, that after *the ground was curſed*, men received from it a full and plenteous product without *culture* and *tillage*, the earth being doomed by the Great Creator, *to bring forth of itſelf only thorns and thiſtles*. Pains and labour were required, to produce another kind of crop from it. Hence the enterprizing genius of man began to exert itſelf ſoon after the *fall* in various *arts* and *ſciences* either uſeful or entertaining: And among theſe, *agriculture* was, no doubt, one of the firſt, being *abſolutely neceſſary* for the ſupport of human life. *Moſes* the firſt and great lawgiver of the *Jews* * tells us, *Cain* was a husbandman or *tiller of the ground*, or as *Joſephus* ſays, " *The* " *inventor of tillage.*" For, in the firſt ages of the world, men lived upon the fruits of trees, and the product

* *Joſeph.* Lib: 1;

product of the ground, *living creatures* not being allowed or uſed (as ſeveral writers aſſert) for food before the flood. It is true indeed, the *Heathen poets* in their accounts of the *Golden Age*, ſuppoſe the earth to have brought forth all its fruits *ſpontaneouſly*; but, they formed their accounts of that age, from the ancient notions of the garden of *Eden*: For, it is very remarkable, that the *oldeſt* and beſt *hiſtorians* among the *Heathens*, found no ſuch *Halcyon-days* recorded in the antiquities of any nations; and therefore † *Diodorus Siculus* ſuppoſes "the lives of the "firſt men to have been far from abounding with "eaſe and plenty, having houſes to build, "cloaths to make, and not having invented proper "*inſtruments* to work with, they lived an *hard* and "laborious life; and many of them, not having "made a *due proviſion for their ſuſtenance*, periſhed "with hunger and cold in winters." This was his account of the lives and condition of the *firſt* men. They were not only obliged to *till* the ground, but to *try*, and by various *experiments* to find out, the beſt and moſt proper method of *cultivating*, as well as to invent and make all ſuch *inſtruments* as were neceſſary for it; and accordingly, we find them confeſſing the *toil* and *labour* that was laid upon them in the words of *Lamech* at the birth of *Noah*, as well as their joy, at the proſpect of having a *new addition* of food by the grant that was to be made to them of *living creatures*, "*This ſame ſhall comfort us, as concerning* "*our work and toil of our hands, becauſe of the ground* "*which the Lord hath curſed.*" For, *Lamech* was probably informed by God, that his ſon *Noah* ſhould obtain a grant of the *living creatures* for the uſe of mankind; and knowing the labour and inconveniencies they were then under, he rejoiced in foreſeeing what eaſe and comfort they ſhould enjoy when they ſhould obtain a large ſupply of food from the *creatures*,

† *Diodor. Sicul.* Lib. 1.

tures, beſide what they could produce from the ground by *tillage*.

But, notwithſtanding the *grant* made by God of the *living creatures* to *Noah* and his poſterity for food; yet, this did not by any means ſuperſede the *uſe* and *neceſſity* of *tillage*. For, *Noah*, as ſoon as the earth began to come a little to itſelf again after the flood, fell to *cultivating the ground*, and *planted a vineyard*. As he had lived ſix hundred years before the *flood*, and was well acquainted with all the *arts* of life that had been invented in the firſt world; ſo, by putting his children upon the ſtudy and practice of *planting* and *agriculture*, he laid the firſt foundations for raiſing a plentiful maintenance for great numbers of people in the ſeveral parts of the world who deſcended from him.

* *Belus* the ſecond king of *Babylon* ſuppoſed by ſome writers to be the ſame with *Nimrod*, and recorded by *hiſtorians* to have been the firſt inventor of *aſtronomy* after the diſperſion of mankind, not only appointed a *ſet* of men who were to make it their whole buſineſs *to till the ground*, but alſo made it part of the *prieſt's* office to obſerve the heavens and the riſing and ſetting of the ſtars, in order to make public declarations, when the ſeaſons began for *tillage* and *harveſt*, which the people had no way to find out by any *diaries* then made or tables of chronology. So that, "*the lights of heaven* were, as *Moſes* ſpeaks, *for ſigns to them, and for ſeaſons, and for days, and for years.*" Hence *Heſiod*, † having given ſeveral ſpecimens of the ancient directions for *ſowing* and *tillage*, adviſes to reap and plough by the riſing and ſetting of the *Pleaides*. And *Virgil* §, many years after, laid it down for a general rule in his *immortal poem* on this ſubject, "that it was as

 "neceſſary

* *Shuckford's* Connect.
† Lib. 2. Ἔργων καὶ ἡμερῶν.
§ Lib. 1. *Georg.*

" neceſſary for the *countryman* to obſerve the ſtars " as for the *ſailor*;" and gives various directions for *huſbandry* and *tillage* in the ancient way, forming rules for the times of performing the ſeveral parts thereof from the lights of heaven.

In *Egypt*, as *Diodorus Siculus* tells us *, " There " were *three orders* of men, of which that of the " *huſbandmen* was one." *Herodotus* does the ſame †, but with this difference, that he makes *ſeven* orders of men in that kingdom. There, *Iſis* and *Oſyris* are ſaid by ſeveral writers to have found out *agriculture* and the invention of *corn*, and to have taught other uſeful arts, whereby they made themſelves famous to poſterity; and therefore, are by ſome *hiſtorians* ſaid to be the true *Bacchus* and *Ceres* of the antients. And many ages after, we find, that this country abounded ſo with corn, that it ſerved as a *granary* to the *Roman* empire.

And now that I have mentioned *Egypt*, I can't forbear obſerving, that whenever I read in the *ſacred pages*, how *Joſeph* was by the ſingular hand of providence, for his illuſtrious fidelity, ingenuity, diligence, and true inſight into things, firſt raiſed not only to be ſteward to *Potiphar*, captain of the king's guard, but was alſo afterwards by *Pharaoh*, or *Thuſmires* himſelf, for his *wiſdom* and *foreſight* of ſeven years plenty, and then of ſeven years more of famine that were to enſue, as well as for his *prudent advice* to lay up in *granaries* the *fifth* part of each plenteous year's product againſt the time of ſcarcity, promoted to be *governor* of a very potent kingdom, wherein he governed, as *Joſephus* tells us ‖, " with " ſuch exact and punctual virtue, with ſuch won- " derful practical prudence, and with ſuch candour " and careful diligence, that every one was charmed " with

* Diod. Sic. Lib. 1.
† Herodot. Lib. 2.
‖ Joſeph, Lib. 2. Jew. Antiq.

" with him ; and wherein, he made ſo *modeſt a uſe*
" of his power that no calumny could ſtick to him ;
" a kingdom, wherein he not only maſtered all
" *difficulties*, but was highly eſteemed by the *princes*,
" and univerſally beloved by the *people*, being a
" ſincere counſellor to *Pharaoh*, and a father to his
" ſubjects ; for, by his *care* and *proviſion*, the whole
" land was preſerved from becoming deſolate, and
" every one of the inhabitants from periſhing by
" want." When, I ſay, I read this account of *Joſeph*, I can't forbear thinking, that *providence* inſpired a wiſe king to exalt your *Grace* to the elevated ſtation which you ſo worthily poſſeſs in *Ireland*, not only for the preſervation of *thouſands* from periſhing by want in the late time of ſcarcity by your *unexampled* charity ; but, with this difference from *Joſeph*, that he only ſupplied the wants of the *Egyptians* out of his *maſter's ſtores*, and ſold them corn for their *ready money*, and when that failed, for their *land*, their *cattle*, and their *ſlaves :* Whereas, your *Grace* ſupplied multitudes out of your own *private fortune*, without *money*, without *land*, without *cattle*, and without *ſlaves :* I ſay, I can't forbear thinking, that your *Grace* was exalted to ſo elevated a ſtation, *only* to preſerve multitudes in the late time of ſcarcity ; but alſo to preſerve an unthinking *improvident* people in all future times of ſcarcity and diſtreſs, by uſing your influence and endeavours to promote *tillage*, and erect *public granaries*, throughout a kingdom, wherein your intereſt and authority, like *Joſeph's*, are firmly eſtabliſhed, and wherein, having, like *him*, *always made the public good your ſupreme law*, you are juſtly become the darling of the people. And here, I am not afraid of being cenſured for flattery by any other than your *Grace* ; becauſe, as *Pliny* ſaid of *Trajan*, " *Every body knows*,
" * *I ſpeak nothing but the truth.*

* Plin. Pan.

In *India*, the firſt legiſlator, as * *hiſtory* informs us, having conſidered what employments were neceſſary to be undertaken and cultivated for the public welfare, appointed ſeveral *orders* or *ſets* of men; and among theſe, one of the *chief* was that whoſe buſineſs it was *to till the ground*; and another, to chaſe and kill ſuch of the beaſts as would be noxious to mankind, or deſtroy the *tillage*, and incommode the *huſbandman*.

In *Perſia*, the kings themſelves amply *rewarded* ſuch as had well and duly *tilled* their fields, and puniſhed the *negligent* and *idle* with the utmoſt ſeverity.

In *Greece*, *Triptolemus*, ſon of *Celeus* king of *Attica*, is by ſome hiſtorians ſaid to have been the firſt who ſpying corn to grow of its own accord, reaped it; and after that, plowing and ſowing more, he grew ſo ſkilful that he wrote *commentaries* of *tillage*, and ſent them abroad into the world; though, as others, with greater probability aſſert, he learned the art of *tillage* from *Ceres* in *Egypt*, and tranſplanted it into *Attica*. The ancient *Greeks*, we read, maintained themſelves by *tillage* as well as by *plunder*, during the wars of *Troy*. *Solon* in his reformation of the ſtate of *Athens* left the four tribes of the people as they were ordered by *Erectheus*, whereof that of *huſbandmen* was one: And *Piſiſtratus*, though a tyrant, commanded the *Athenians* to apply themſelves to *huſbandry*, as both *Plutarch* and *Diogenes Laertius* inform us. In *Sparta*, *Lycurgus* made the *Helotæ*, or public ſlaves, to *till the ground*. In a word, *agriculture* was regarded in this country as an *art* or *ſcience*; and therefore ſeveral of their beſt *authors* and *philoſophers* wrote books upon it.

In antient *Sicily*, the *ſkill* and *induſtry* of the inhabitants in point of *tillage* was deemed by *hiſtorians* to have been the *ſource* of all that prodigious wealth with

* Shuckford's Connect.

with which they abounded. Nay, ſuch was the *care* taken of *tillage* in that country, that even *Hiero* the tyrant thereof regulated in perſon the affairs relating to it, ordaining the *quantity* of corn to be *ſowed*, the *price*, and the *time* of receiving it from the farmers by the tax-gatherers, as appears from the *Lex Hieronica*, which, for the juſtice of it, the *Romans* themſelves ſtill continued in force after they had poſſeſſed themſelves of that *iſland*, which was one of the great *granaries* of their empire.

If we look into the hiſtory of the ancient *Romans*, we ſhall there find, that *agriculture* was held in great honour by that *wiſe* and glorious people. * *Romulus*, as *Dionyſius Halicarnaſſenſis* informs us, allowed the freemen of *Rome* but two profeſſions, namely, *war* and *agriculture*. *Numa*, in order to baniſh poverty, recommended the *cultivation* of lands to the *Romans*, ſays *Plutarch* in the life of that king. " He " divided among the poorer citizens," ſays † *Rollin*, " the conquered lands to keep them from *idleneſs*, " and its attendant injuſtice, by the enjoyment of " the lawful fruits of their *labour*, and to incline " them to a love of peace ſo neceſſary to the " *huſbandman*. He frequently viewed himſelf the " *labours* of the *field*; judged of the owners by the " *work*; advanced to poſts the *laborious*, *diligent*, and " *induſtrious*; and reprimanded the *negligent* and " *ſlothful*. By theſe various means, ſupported by " his own example, he rendered *agriculture* ſo ho- " nourable, that, in the following ages, the *generals* " and chief *magiſtrates*, far from regarding as beneath " them the *rural occupations*, gloried in *cultivating* " their own fields with the ſame victorious and tri- " umphant hands that had conquered the enemies of " the ſtate and put their armies to flight." Was not *Quintius Cincinnatus* taken from the plow to be

 made

* Dionyſ. Hallicarn. Lib. 2.
† Rollin's Roman Hiſtory.

made *conſul*, yea *Dictator*, the *chief magiſtrate* of *Rome*.

But, not to inſiſt longer on the *practice* of the *antients* with regard to *tillage*, do not *Poland*, *Pruſſia*, *France*, *Flanders*, *Switzerland*, *Italy*, and all other *wiſe* countries as well as *England*, *till* their lands to ſuch a degree as to be able not only to ſupport the inhabitants of their own reſpective ſtates, but alſo to ſupply others in caſes of *famine*, *ſcarcity*, or *diſtreſs*? Nay, do not our own *colonies* in *America*, with immenſe labour and pains, *till* their reſpective *rough* and *woody* grounds, ſo as to be in a condition not only to ſerve themſelves, but to *export* vaſt quantities of corn to *Europe*, particularly to *Ireland*?

Thus it appears from the *practice* of all ages and *wiſe* ſtates, both *antient* and *modern*, that *tillage* was always *encouraged*, *promoted*, *improved*. But, in *Ireland*, it is ſaid, that the country abounds ſo with *rich paſture*, that *farmers* find much greater *profit* by feeding *bullocks* than they can by *tillage*, and therefore, are under a neceſſity of purſuing that method preferably to *tillage*, in order to pay their rents.

But, this will appear erroneous and falſe to every impartial ſearcher after *truth* from the following calculations.

* The *Bullocks* which we ſlaughter in *Ireland* for exportation, may be ſaid to be ſold at a medium for 4l. 4s. 6d. a piece; for, I allow the carcaſs to weigh five hundred and a half, and to be ſold for nine ſhillings per hundred; the hide to weigh an hundred, and to be ſold for twenty ſhillings; and the tallow to weigh ſix ſtone per bullock, which, at 2s. 6d. per ſtone, (and this has been allowed to be a good price) amounts to fifteen ſhillings; which ſeveral ſums added together, make 4l. 4s. 6d. —The land employed

* See this Argument, and ſome others on this head, copiouſly handled by the Author of *Some Thoughts on* TILLAGE.

ployed in feeding a bullock, being three acres at moſt for the firſt two years, and four acres and a half of choice land for the three laſt, to find him in proper graſs and hay to fit him for ſlaughter; it is certain, the ſaid three acres, though generally very indifferent coarſe land, yet if *tilled* in the ordinary *Iriſh* way, cannot be ſuppoſed to bear leſs than ſix barrels of oats per acre; and where fit for winter-corn, will bear four barrels of wheat, or ſix of barley at leaſt. Now, if we allow 3 s. ſhillings per barrel for the oats, 4 s. 6 d. for the barley, and 11 s. for the wheat; and ſuppoſe one third part of the ground to bear wheat or barley, and the other two thirds to bear oats; then, the product at a medium, will amount to 1 l. 3 s. per acre, beſides the ſtraw, and conſequently of ſaid three acres of coarſe ground to 3 l. 9 s. As to the four acres and a half of *choice* land, it is certain, they will yield at leaſt ſix barrels of wheat per acre, nine of barley, and eight of oats, beſides ſeed; upon ſuppoſition, that one third of the ground bears oats, and the other two thirds, wheat or barley; and allowing the ſeveral above-mentioned *low* rates for the different kinds of grain; then, the value of the product at a medium, will amount to 2 l. 3 s. 6 d. per acre; and ſo, of the ſaid four acres and a half, to 9 l. 15 s. 9 d. and conſequently, of the *whole*, to 13 l. 4 s. 9 d.—But, as it is neceſſary, that land employed in *tillage*, ſhould have proper intervals of reſt, in order to ſtrengthen it for future crops, I ſhall therefore ſuppoſe no more than one half of the above number of acres to bear corn at one and the ſame time, and conſequently, ſhall take no more than one half of the above ſum, which is 6 l. 12 s. 4 d. $\frac{1}{2}$, as the value of the *whole* product, which muſt be allowed by the moſt prejudiced man in the kingdom to be not only a *moderate*, but a *very low* computation; ſo that, our paſture-ground, if employed under *tillage*, would, inſtead of grazing and feeding a bullock, worth at moſt, but 4 l. 4 s. 6 d.

produce at leaſt corn, to the value of 6 l. 12 s. 4 ½; and conſequently, the gain appears plainly to be 2 l. 7 s. 10 ½ more by *tilling* the land employed in feeding every bullock, than can poſſibly ariſe from *his* paſture.

* A very learned *member* of the preſent *honourable houſe of commons* of *Ireland*, ſhews clearly the *profit* ariſing from *agriculture*, and the difference between the *profit* to the *public* of lands employed that way; and that of *grazing* or *paſture*, in the following manner. He ſhews, " that an acre of wheat plantation-
" meaſure, which is our ſtatute acre, in the com-
" mon and ordinary way of *tillage* in *Ireland*, will
" yield ſeven barrels *Briſtol-meaſure*, which comput-
" ted at 12 s. per barrel for exportation, would a-
" mount to 4 l. 4 s. — By fallowing, a year's corn,
" being allowed to be loſt, the half is the value of
" the acre *per annum*, which amounts only to
" 2 l. 2 s.—Now it is plain, that except ſeed and
" repairs, all the reſt is clear gain to the nation; for
" the maintenance of ſo many hands and cattle, is
" part of the benefit and profit of the publick;
" ſo that the ſeed and repairs not exceeding 20 s.
" for two years, that is, 10 s. *per annum*, there
" will be a *national profit* of 1 l. 12 s. *per annum*.

" But, to the *farmer*, above his labour computed
" when ſown, at 1 l. 3 s. 2 d. to which add his
" ſeed, rent, tythe, weeding, reaping, threſhing,
" and ſending to market, at 2 l. 3 s. 6 d. the gain
" is but 17 s. 4 d. which is 8 s. 8 d. *per annum*, o-
" ver and above all his rent, tythe, labour, *&c.*
" If wheat ſold for 15 s. *per* barrel, he would then
" gain 17 s. 8 d. *per annum*. Thus by the worſt
" way of *tillage*, when the markets are at the *loweſt*,
" including tythe, and rent, at 9 s. per acre, there
" is

* *Arthur Dobbs*, Eſq; in his *Eſſay* on the *Trade* and *Improvement* of *Ireland*, of which, it is greatly to be wiſhed, a *new Edition* was publiſhed for the *public good*.

" is 17 s. 8 d. *annual profit*, over and above the peo-
" ple maintained, who are neceſſary to *till* and *ma-*
" *nure* it.

" But, if, ſays he, we take *tillage* in a proper
" light, and conſider it as plowed after the *Engliſh*
" and *beſt* manner; then, the expence of plowing,
" ſeed, rent, tythe, and all charges, till ſent to the
" market, will not exceed 2 l. 16 s. 5 ¼; and the
" produce upon an acre, may reaſonably be compu-
" ted at twelve barrels per acre, which would a-
" mount to 7 l. 4 s. So that, the *neat profit* would
" be 4 l. 7 s. 6 ¼, and the *annual profit* 2 l 3 s. 9 ¼,
" to the *farmer*, to the publick all the remainder,
" as before, except ſeed and repairs, which would
" be above 3 l. 5 s. *per annum*, *national profit*. An
" acre of *rye* in coarſer and higher grounds,
" may reaſonably be computed at ⅓ of the wheat,
" tho' ſome account it as good, having generally
" more barrels upon the acre.

" The expence of an acre of *white-peaſe*, in plow-
" ing, rent, tythe, *&c.* until fit for the market, is
" about 1 l. 14 s. and at eight barrels per acre, and
" 12 s. per barrel, there would be *neat profit*, 3 l. 2 s.
" *per annum*; *beans* above 2 l. *grey-peaſe*, the ſame;
" *barley*, at 6 s. *per* barrel, about 2 l. 10 s. and *oats*
" about 1 l. 10 s.

" By theſe computations, continues this *learned*
" *gentleman*, may be ſeen, how much more *profitable*
" *tillage* is to the kingdom than *paſture*. The pro-
" fit upon *paſture*, at a *medium*, does not exceed
" 12 s. 5 d. *per* acre; whereas the loweſt upon *agri-*
" *culture*, is 1 l. 10 s. *neat profit* to the *farmer*; the
" higheſt, 3 l. when the markets are at the *loweſt*,
" over and above all charges."

And here I muſt obſerve, that if the *national pro-fit*, as well as the *profit* of the *farmer* ariſing from the *tillage* of an acre of the *indifferent* land in the *North* of *Ireland* be ſo *great*, though the prices of corn, are computed ſo *low*; how much more profit

muſt

muſt ariſe from an acre of the *fertile rich ſoil* in the province of *Munſter*, if duly *cultivated*, where the prices are ſo *high*, as at this conjuncture? However, I would not be hereby underſtood to have *paſture* entirely diſcouraged; no, but I think, it bears by far *too great a proportion* to the *tillage* of the kingdom; which, I hope, will, in due time, be *effectually* remedied.

Thus it appears, that the profit ariſing from *tillage*, even in the *ordinary* manner practiſed in *Ireland*, not to inſiſt on the *Engliſh* and beſt manner, is vaſtly greater, not only to the kingdom in general, but alſo to *particular farmers*, than *any profit* that can poſſibly ariſe from *paſture*.

But, this is not the only *benefit* ariſing from the *inlargement* of *tillage* in *Ireland*. There are many other *advantages*, that naturally flow from it; as,

Firſt, The great *increaſe* of people, ſo much wanted at preſent in the kingdom, the late *famine* and *ſickneſs* conſequent upon it, having ſwept away many thouſands. Nothing is more certain, than that the *power* and *riches* of every ſtate in the world, principally depend on the *number*, *welfare*, and *induſtry* of its inhabitants. Nor, is it leſs certain, that the *inlargement* of our *tillage*, would greatly add to the number of labouring hands in this kingdom. In all paſture-countries, we may ſee, if we will but open our eyes, only ſome few poor cottiers, who are *ſervants* to the rich *proteſtant* gentlemen and farmers; but rather *ſlaves* to *popiſh* landlords, who generally treat them with great rigour and ſeverity. If they increaſe, as they do commonly, they are obliged to fly to ſome other country for ſome livelihood. Hence, if I am rightly informed, there are now no leſs than 15,000 of the *natives* of *Ireland*, in the military ſervice of *France*, and *Spain*; and hence, great numbers of our *poor weavers*, have been obliged to go to *France*, *Germany*, and *Spain*, where they have met with great incouragement, and

ſet

ſet up *woollen manufacturies*, to which, their friends in *Ireland*, find means to run their *wool*, whereby they have not only *inſtructed*, but *enabled* thoſe countries to underſell *Great-Britain*, at all foreign markets, where there is a demand for *woollen goods*, to it's unſpeakable detriment. If theſe *poor* people ſtay in their own country, they can have no regular ſetled way of ſubſiſting themſelves, but muſt live in *idleneſs*, or extreme *poverty*, or elſe turn vagabonds, thieves, and robbers. This is evident, from a ſhort compariſon of the province of *Ulſter*, with the province of *Munſter*. In the latter, as an * ingenious writer obſerves, " we may ſee vaſt tracts of the beſt " land in the kingdom, almoſt unpeopled, inhabit- " ed only by a few dirty wretches, diſperſed among " the beaſts of the field, living in ſo miſerable a " ſtate of poverty and barbarity, ſloth, idleneſs, " *popiſh* ignorance, and ſuperſtition, as is a ſhame and " reproach to a *chriſtian* country, being more vile " than the condition of *Indian* ſavages; their cloath- " ing, being of rags, their houſes, hovels, fitter for " ſwine, than human creatures, and the ſcantineſs, " and naſtineſs of their food, ſcarcely to be con- " ceived; or elſe, they become vagrants, thieves, " ſturdy beggars, or public robbers, with whom the " country abounds. Whereas, in *Ulſter* where *tillage* has prevailed, " how have the common-people " multiplied ſince the late happy revolution, under " our deliverer King *William* the *third*, notwithſtand- " ing the numbers that went from thence to *America*? " In how clean and decent a manner do they live? " How warm are their houſes? How clean and de- " cent their apparel? How wholeſome their food? " How flouriſhing their manufactures? How great " their induſtry? How triumphant the *proteſtant* " religion.

Another

* The Author of *Some Thoughts on Tillage*.

Another *advantage* naturally ariſing from the *inlargement* of *tillage* in this kingdom would be, " the *conſtant* imployment of *poor* and *idle* perſons, " who ſo greatly abound among us, and of whom " the public at preſent ſo much complains."

In countries abounding with *paſture*, it is certain, there can be but very little *imployment* for labouring people. For, is *tallow* capable of much manufacture; and, if it were, is not the moſt of it exported to other countries? Is *beef* capable of any? Are not the hands required in *tanning* perfectly inconſiderable, when compared with the multitudes imployed in *tillage* wherever it prevails? And what makes the caſe ſtill worſe, is, that, if I am rightly informed, we export above one half of our *hides*, green. Now, whatever promotes labour in general increaſes the *national wealth*, as well as the *wealth* of *particular* perſons. Labour and induſtry, are by all allowed to be undoubtedly the *riches* of every country under the ſun; it being impoſſible in the nature of things, that a nation, whoſe inhabitants are fully employed, ſhould ever be *poor*, which is evident from the caſe of *Holland*, even to a demonſtration; or, that an *idle ſlothful* nation, ſhould ever be *rich*, as is but too plain from the caſe of *Ireland*. But, *want* of labour, and proper imployment for the common people in every country, is not only a certain occaſion of poverty and miſery, but alſo of great vice and immorality; an *idle* and *ſlothful people*, being always obſerved to be *profligate* and *contemptible*. Whereas, *labour* and *induſtry* in every nation, promote virtue, and naturally beget wealth and happineſs, both to the *public*, as well as to *private* perſons; and therefore, our *tillage* ought to be *inlarged*, in regard, it would neceſſarily imploy numbers of the *poor* and *idle* among us, in proportion to the *inlargement* of it, the whole year round; as well as promote *virtue*, and baniſh *vice* and *immorality*, which are always the *natural offspring*

of

of *idleneſs*, from amongſt us. Hence, ſays the * *learned gentleman* beforementioned, " the *national* " *profit* and *power*, is vaſtly increaſed, by employ- " ing ſo many hands in the management of *agri-* " *culture*, and in making the *utenſils* belonging to " it. For, it is reaſonable to believe, that ten acres " in *tillage*, will give one family full employment; " whereas, except where dairies are kept, in *paſture* " two hundred would not; conſequently, two hun- " dred thouſand acres under ſtock, would not afford " employment for above *one thouſand* families, and " ſo much in *tillage*, would employ *twenty thouſand*.

Another advantage ariſing from the *increaſe* of *tillage* in *Ireland* would neceſſarily be, " The cer- " tain *improvement* of all our other *manufactures* in " general". Nothing is more plain and evident to every perſon of common underſtanding than that " Whatever encreaſes the demand of any " manufactured commodity, encourages that manu- " facture" : And it is as evident, that ſelling cheap is the beſt and ſureſt method to enlarge ſuch demand. Now, we have *rivals* in all the principal branches of our manufactures in *France*, *Flanders*, *Holland*, *Germany*; yea, and in *Spain*; whom, it is our intereſt, beyond all doubt, to underſell. But, can any thing be imagined more *effectual* to obtain this end, than to keep down the price of labour among ourſelves: And can that be ever done by any other means ſo effectually as by *increaſing* our tillage? No; when *bread* is at a low price, then our labouring people can afford to work at a *low* and *cheap* rate: For which reaſon, the price of labour always did, and ever muſt depend upon the price of *corn* in every country. So that, nothing can be more evident than that the *increaſe* of *tillage* among us would be a certain means

* *Arthur Dobbs* Eſq; in his *Eſſay* on the *Trade* and *improvement* of *Ireland*.

means of improving all our manufactures in general; but more particularly of our *linnen-manufacture*, the moſt valuable branch of all our exports. For, if *gentlemen* of *large eſtates* in the province of *Munſter*, would ſeriouſly conſider the *great profit* ariſing neceſſarily from *tillage* above *paſture*, they would ſoon ſeek for tennants in the *North of Ireland*, and tranſplant into that *ill-peopled* province, in the room of thoſe lately ſwept away by the late *epidemic* diſorders, ſuch *farmers* as are well ſkilled in the *linnen-manufactures*, and not only make them *fair promiſes*, but give them *ſubſtantial encouragement*, who would ſoon extend over ſome parts of that large province that valuable *manufacture* at preſent confined to five or ſix counties of the *North*. But more eſpecially, ſuch *eſtated gentlemen* would *incourage* and *inlarge* the *hempen-manufacture* ſo ſurpriſingly neglected in *Ireland*, but particularly in that province, though I will be bold to ſay, there is no country on the face of the globe fitter to produce *hemp*, if duly *cultivated*, than the *rich* parts of the counties of *Limerick*, *Tipperary*, and *Clare*: And if, as I have been informed, *Great-Britain* imports from *Ruſſia* and the *Northern* countries as much *hemp* yearly as amounts in value to the ſum of 200,000l. at leaſt, for his *Majeſty's* fleets and other purpoſes: And, as in *Ireland* we have free liberty to improve this manufacture and *export* it; and as it would be the *real* intereſt of *England* to buy and import it from us rather than from any other people: Surely, we muſt be blind if we cannot ſee, what a vaſt addition this would neceſſarily make to our *exports*, which could not fail to inrich us; and therefore, it is to be hoped, the *legiſlature* will take this matter into ſerious conſideration, and inlarge this particular branch by ordering *præmiums* to be given for encouraging the *hempen-trade*, or by ſome other more *effectual* method. Beſides, not only the *linnen* and *hempen-manufactures*, but alſo the *proteſtant*

religion

religion would by this means be greatly extended over that province, where there are ſix *papiſts* to *one proteſtant* by a moderate computation in the greateſt part thereof, which would not only ver much contribute to *ſtrengthen* and *promote* the *proteſtant intereſt* in general, but ſecure the *peace* and *quiet* of that *popiſh* part of the kingdom at all times, and on all occaſions. So that, the *increaſe* of *tillage* would not only be the *true intereſt* and *advantage* of the *people*, but likewiſe, in a particular manner, of the *government* of *Ireland*.

Thus, the great *national profit* ariſing from the *increaſe* of *tillage* as well as the *particular profit* of the *farmers* themſelves, together with many and various other *advantages* which naturally flow from it, beſides thoſe already mentioned, on which I think it needleſs to inſiſt, in regard, they have been ſet in a clear light by abler pens than mine, do all plainly ſhew, to all *unprejudiced* perſons, the great *reaſonableneſs* and *abſolute neceſſity* of our *inlarging* and *improving* our *tillage* at this time in *Ireland*.

And certainly, for theſe and the like important reaſons it was, that in *England* great care was always taken of this matter; the wiſdom of that people appearing in no *one* inſtance greater than in the ſingular regard they bore to *tillage*, even long before the date of their written laws. For, we read, that the *ancient common law* of that kingdom exempted *beaſts of the plough* from diſtreſſes, and protected them even againſt the *landlord* himſelf, where any other diſtreſs could be found, to the end that no impediment might be given to *tillage*. But, however that may be, it is certain, that the *legiſlature* of that *wiſe* people have at different times, and on many occaſions, not only only iſſued out *proclamations* and *commiſſions of inſpection*, but alſo made *ordinances* and *laws* to promote and *inlarge tillage**. My lord *Bacon* tells us, that in the reign of *Henry* the VII.

* Lord *Bacon* in the life of *Henry* VII.

VII. a *ſtatute* was made to prevent the many miſchiefs which at that time aroſe from the great want of *tillage*, and from converting *arable* land into *paſture*. " For remedying this inconvenience, " ſays he, the king and the parliament's wiſdom was " admirable; the *ordinance* was, that all *houſes of* " *huſbandry*, that were uſed with twenty acres of " ground and upwards, ſhould be maintained and " kept up for ever, together with a competent " portion of Land to be uſed and occupied with " them, and in no wiſe to be ſevered from them. " By this means, ſays the *hiſtorian*, the houſes being " kept up, did of neceſſity inforce a dweller not to " be a *beggar* or a *cottager*, but a man of ſome " ſubſtance that might keep *hinds* and *ſervants* and " ſet the *plough* on going. His ſucceſſor *Henry* " the VIII. as † lord *Herbert* tells us, finding " the *miſchiefs* ſtill increaſing by the *want* of *tillage* " and turning *corn-farms* into *paſture*, ordered the " *ancient* ſtatutes to be looked into, and executed." And accordingly, directed his *commiſſion* to the juſtices of the peace, " to reſtore all the *tillage-grounds* that " had been incloſed at any time within fifty years " laſt paſt, and to cauſe the *houſes* anciently upon " them to be re-edified." For, as * *Polydore Virgil*, likewiſe obſerves on this occaſion, " the *noble herdſ-* " *men*, after the manner of the *Numidians*, delighting " more in the *paſture of cattle*, than in *tillage*, began " to thin the country of *husbandmen*, to level their " habitations, to turn the kingdom into vaſt *deſarts*, " and to fill it with numerous *herds* and *flocks* of " beaſts. Thus, they incloſed all paſtures, and " took them into their own poſſeſſion, intending to " ingroſs a *monopoly* of wool, ſheep, and oxen, by " their private power. From hence the common-

" wealth

† Lord *Herbert* in his life of *Henry* VIII.——See the propoſal for leſſening the exceſſive price of bread-corn in *Ireland*.

* Polyd. virg. l. 27.

" wealth ſuffered a *threefold* miſchief, firſt, the num-
" ber of *yeomen* were diminiſhed, whoſe bodies are
" moſt uſeful to the king in his *wars*, 2*dly*, many
" *villages* and *towns*, being emptied of their inha-
" bitants, are fallen to ruin; and 3*dly*, wool with
" the cloathing made thereof, and the fleſh of ſuch
" animals, as ſerve for the ſupport of man, increaſed
" *highly* in their prices. Theſe evils not being pro-
" vided againſt early, gathered ſtrength from time;
" and in the end became difficult to be remedied.
" The king therefore publiſhed a *proclamation* over
" all *England*, and *commiſſioned* the *juſtices of the peace*,
" in their ſeveral diſtricts to make an enquiry; and
" return what *wicked practices* of this kind had been
" introduced within fifty years laſt paſt. The *ju-*
" *ſtices* did their duty diligently, and made a full re-
" turn of every thing committed to them. The
" king iſſued a *proclamation*, commanding the *farm-*
" *houſes*, which had been thrown down to be rebuilt,
" the *husbandmen* to be brought back, the incloſures
" to be levelled; and inflicted a ſevere penalty on
" the diſobedient." This, we find, put a ſtop for that time to thoſe *wicked practices*, but the *evil* ſoon increaſed again. For, † twelve years after, the *legiſlature* thought it neceſſary to provide a new remedy, and made a law with this *preamble*, namely,
" becauſe the greedineſs of ſome who have gotten
" into their hands *much cattle*, and *many farms*, which
" they have turned from *tillage* to *paſture* (eſpecially
" for *ſheep*) *old* rents are raiſed, *prices* of things in-
" hanced, and ſo much *theft* and *poverty* inſue; there-
" fore it was enacted, 1*ſt*, that no man ſhould have
" in his *own* or *farmed-lands* above two thouſand
" *ſheep*; and 2*dly*, that no man ſhould *take* and *hold*
" above *two farms* at once, and thoſe to be in the
" *ſame pariſh*, under certain *ſevere* penalties there

† See *the Propoſal for leſſening the exceſſive Price of Bread-corn in* Ireland.

" ſet down." In the 25th year alſo of this king's reign, there was a *ſtatute* made to promote *tillage*, the *preamble* of which is ſo perfectly agreeable to the circumſtances of this kingdom at preſent, that I ſhall tranſcribe part of it, " divers of the kings ſubjects " of this realm, to whom God of his Goodneſs hath " diſpoſed great abundance of moveable ſubſiſtance, " now of late within few years, have daily ſtudied " *ways* and *means* how they might *accumulate* and " *gather together* into *few* hands as well *great multi-* " *tudes* of *farms* as *plenty* of *cattle* . . . . . putting " ſuch land as they can get to *paſture* and not to " *tillage*, whereby they have not only pulled down " *churches* and *towns* . . . . but alſo, have *raiſed* " and *enhanſed* the prices which have been accuſtom- " ed: By reaſon whereof, a marvellous multitude, " and number of the people of this realm be not " able to provide *meat*, *drink*, and *cloaths* neceſſary " for themſelves, their wives and children; but, be " ſo diſcouraged with *miſery* and *poverty*, that they " fall daily to *robbery* and other *inconveniences*, or " pitifully die for *hunger* and *cold* . . . . . which " things be principally to the *high diſpleaſure* of al- " mighty God . . . to the *diminiſhing* of the king's " people . . . . And, in concluſion, if remedy be " not found, it may turn to the *utter deſtruction* and " *deſolation* of this realm, which God defend." Yet, notwithſtanding all this care taken in the reign of *Henry* VIII. we find, in the ſucceeding reign of his ſon *Edward* VI. there was ſo great *poverty* and *diſ- content* throughout the kingdom on account of the *decay* of *tillage*, and the *incloſing* of lands for *paſture*, that there were many dangerous *inſurrections*, which produced a *commiſſion* immediately to enquire into theſe abuſes; and occaſioned the following *proclama- tion* to be iſſued againſt *incloſures*, letting *houſes* fall to decay, and againſt *unlawful converting* of *arable* ground into *paſture*, namely, * " that the *king*, the " lord

* An. 1548. See *Strype's Memor.* of K. Edw. 6. p. 92, 93, 94.

" lord *protector's grace*, and the reſt of the *privy*
" *council* were put in remembrance as well by divers
" ſupplications and pitiful complaints of the king's
" *poor* ſubjects, as well as by other wiſe and diſ-
" creet men, having care of the good order of the
" realm, that of late by the *incloſing* of lands and
" *arable* grounds in divers and ſundry places of the
" realm, *many* had been driven to *extreme poverty*,
" and compelled to leave the *places where they were*
" *born*, and to ſeek them *beings* in other countries;
" inſomuch, as in time paſt, ten, twenty, yea, in
" ſome places, an hundred or two hundred *chriſtian*
" people have been inhabiting, and kept houſholds
" for the bringing up and nouriſhing of youth, and
" to the repleniſhing and filling of his *majeſty's*
" realm with faithful ſubjects, who might both ſerve
" Almighty God and the king's majeſty to the de-
" fence of the realm. Now, there is nothing but
" *ſheep* and *bullocks*; all that *land* which was hereto-
" fore *tilled*, and occupied with ſo many *men*, and
" did bring forth not only divers families in work
" and labour, but alſo fit *furniture* for the markets,
" is now gotten by *unſatiable greedineſs* of men into
" *one* or *two* mens hands, and ſcarcely dwelt upon
" with *one poor ſhepherd*. So that, the realm thereby
" was brought to a marvellous *deſolation*, &c. and al-
" though ſundry complaints have been heretofore
" made of the ſame thing; and divers and ſundry
" *laws* made for remedy thereof in the time of his
" majeſty's father and grandfather, yet, the *covet-*
" *ouſneſs* of men not ceaſing daily to incroach there-
" upon; and more and more laying *waſte* the realm;
" therefore, his majeſty by the advice of his privy-
" council, having deeply weighed theſe things, and
" out of princely zeal, that ſuch godly *laws* may
" be put in *ure* and *execution*, hath appointed a view
" and enquiry to be made of all ſuch as contrary to
" the ſaid *acts* and *ordinances*, have made *encloſures*
" and *paſtures* of that which was *arable* land, *&c.*

" and therefore willeth and commandeth all his lo-
" ving ſubjects, who know of any ſuch *defaults* and
" *offences*, contrary to the *wealth* and *profit* of his
" realm, and the *laws* and *acts of parliament*, done
" and committed by any perſon whatſoever he or
" they be, to give information of the *offence* to his
" majeſty's *commiſſioners*, who are appointed to hear
" the ſame; that ſo, a convenient and ſpeedy refor-
" mation might be made therein to the *honour of*
" *God*, and the *king's majeſty*, and the *wealth* and *be-*
" *neſit* of the whole realm." In the ſame reign of
* *Edward* VI. an *act* paſſed, " that ſo much land
" ſhould be *tilled* as had been employed four years
" in that manner at any time in forty-two years next
" before the making of ſuch *act*, on pain of forfeit-
" ing five ſhillings an acre." In the reign of † *Phi-*
lip and *Mary*, the law that had been made in the
reign of *Henry* VII. for encouraging *husbandry*, was
confirmed; and *commiſſioners* were appointed to en-
quire into, hear, and determine offences againſt it,
and inveſted with power to bind the *offenders* by re-
cognizance for rebuilding *decayed houſes of husbandry*,
and for converting *paſture* into *tillage*. In the reign
of § Queen *Elizabeth*, an *act* was made, that all
ſuch lands as had been in *tillage* in any one year,
and ſo kept four years at any time in thirty five
years next before the making of ſaid *act*, ſhould be
plowed and kept in *tillage*, according to the nature
of the ſoil and cuſtom of the country, on pain of
forfeiting ten ſhillings an acre yearly, to be recover-
ed by diſtreſs. In the reign of our late glorious *de-*
liver, ‖ King *William*, a law was made, giving a præ-
mium of 2s. 6d. *per* quarter for the exportation of
barley and *malt*, when they are at twenty-four ſhil-
lings

* 5. 6. Edw. 6 c. 5.
† 2. 3. Phi. and Mary c. 2.
§ 5. Eliz. c. 2.
‖ 1. Wil. and M. ſeſſ. 1. c. 12.

lings *per* quarter; 3 s. 6 d. for *rye*, when it is at 32 s. and 5 s. for wheat, when it is at 48 s. *per* quarter or under; which ſhews, as a late * ingenious writer obſerves, "that the legiſlature of *England* did not "think the *product* of the ſoil, a ſufficient recom-"pence for the *husbandman's* labour; but determin-"ed to reward his toil, by paying him large ſums "of money out of the *public treaſure*.

Thus we may ſee, how the *legiſlators* of *England* have acted with regard to *huſbandry* and *tillage* for ſome hundreds of years paſt. But, notwithſtanding there was the ſame, or rather greater *neceſſity* for the *improvement* of *tillage* in *Ireland*; the love of *eaſe*, of *lazy paſture*, and of *ſlothfulneſs* to the laſt degree, being the delight of the *Iriſh* natives; and *induſtry* and the toil of *huſbandry* their greateſt averſion; yet, ſtrange to be believed by foreigners! It was never yet thought neceſſary to ballance theſe prevailing inclinations of their minds by proper and effectual *laws* for the incouragement of *tillage*; though ſo long ago as the reign of queen *Elizabeth*, † Mr. *Spencer* ſecretary to the lord *Grey* when lord deputy of *Ireland*, who ſeems to have well underſtood the ſtate of this country, does, in *his view of Ireland*, among other *regulations*, expreſly recommend an *increaſe* of *tillage* in this kingdom. "I "would wiſh, *ſays he*, that there were ſome *ordi-"nances* made amongſt the *Iriſh*, that whoever "keepeth twenty kine ſhould keep a *plow* going; "for, otherwiſe all men would fall to paſturage, "and none to *huſbandry*, which is a great cauſe of "the uſual *ſtealths* in *Ireland*. For, look into all "countries that live in ſuch ſort by keeping of "cattle, and you ſhall find, that they are both "*barbarous* and *uncivil*, as alſo greatly given to

* Author of *Some Thoughts on Tillage*.

† Mr. *Edmund Spencer* in *his View of Ireland*.

" *war.* The *Tartarians*, the *Muſcovites*, the *Nor-*
" *wegians*, the *Goths*, the *Armenians*, and many
" other do witneſs the ſame: And therefore, ſince
" now we propoſe to draw the *Iriſh* from deſire of
" *war* and *tumults* to the love of peace and civility,
" it is expedient to abridge their cuſtom of *herding*,
" and augment their trade of *tillage* and *huſbandry.*"
Yet, notwithſtanding the *teſtimony* which this wiſe man bore, how ſerviceable *tillage* would be to *Ireland*; nothing ſeems to have been done for the *encouragement* thereof by a *law*, 'till the beginning of queen * *Ann*'s reign, when an *act* was paſſed, giving a *Præmium* of one ſhilling *per* quarter for exporting bear, barley, rye, and malt, and one ſhilling and ſix pence for wheat. But, as theſe *Præmiums* are only to be given when malt, bear, and barley, are ſo low as *ten* ſhillings *per* quarter, rye *nine* ſhillings, and wheat *fourteen* ſhillings, they do not appear at preſent to be of any kind of uſe to the publick. The *legiſlature* therefore, in the *firſt* year of his preſent † *majeſty*'s reign made a *law* enacting, that five acres in the hundred ſhall be every where plowed and ſowed, on pain of forfeiting 40 s. for every acre unplowed, to be recovered by *civil bill.* But whether the *quantity* of land ſpecified to be plowed was too inconſiderable, or the *penalty* ſo ſmall that no perſon would inform and ſue for it; or whatever elſe might have been the reaſon, it is certain in *fact*, that this *ſtatute*, how well ſoever intended by the *legiſlators*, has been of no kind of ſervice to the *public*, though, it is certain, ſome laws ſeem to be made with an intent never to be executed. It is therefore to be preſumed, " that if the *ex-*
" *ample* and *practice* of all *ages* and *wiſe coun-*
" *tries* from the creation down to the preſent
" times; if the keeping at leaſt 150,000 l. in
" the kingdom which is annually ſent out of it
" for

* 6. Ann c. 18. † 1. Geo. 2.

" for *corn*; if the *national gain* as well as the *profit*
" of the *farmers* themſelves ariſing from *huſbandry*
" be vaſtly greater, that is, be three or four times
" as much as what can poſſibly ariſe from *paſture*;
" if the *increaſe* of people ſo much wanted at pre-
" ſent in the kingdom, who are the *riches* of the
" crown; if the *conſtant imployment* of the *able poor*
" and *idle* perſons who ſo greatly abound among
" us; if the *improvement* of all our manufactures
" in general, particularly of the *linnen-manufacture*;
" if the ſtrengthening of the *proteſtant* intereſt in
" the moſt *popiſh* provinces; and the *preſervation* of the
" *public peace* and *quiet* of the kingdom, be allowed
" to be conſiderable *advantages* both to the *govern-*
" *ment* and *people* of *Ireland* in general, as certainly
" they muſt by all rational impartial perſons;"
then, I ſay, it is to preſumed, that the *legiſlature*
will again take the *inlargement* and *improvement of*
tillage into their ſerious conſideration, and by a *law*
limit the number of acres to be taken and held for
the future by the *farmers*, eſpecially by the *popiſh*
farmers of *Ireland*, as well as appoint and order *a*
certain number of acres to be plowed and ſowed
yearly out of every hundred that they ſhall occupy,
under ſuch *penalties* as ſhall appear *proper* and *ef-*
fectual to them; and enjoin the *hearth-money col-*
lectors whoſe revenue-buſineſs is generally done in
three or four months of the year, and the *high-*
conſtables in their ſeveral *diſtricts* who have the exact
number of acres contained in every denomination
of every pariſh in their *barony-books*, or the *church-*
wardens of each pariſh, or ſome other *proper* perſons,
throughout the kingdom, to make *true* returns on
oath at a proper time, and before proper perſons
every year of the number of acres ſo plowed and
ſowed, under ſevere *penalties* to be inflicted on them
in caſe of failure or neglect. This, or ſome ſuch
method, I humbly apprehend, would be *one effec-*
tual means to remedy the great *poverty* and *miſery*

under which we labour at preſent in this kingdom for want of *tillage*. And of this, * one of our *legiſlators* was very ſenſible when he obſerved, "That until the lazy method of employing large "tracts of land in grazing of cattle, which prevails "in the moſt fertile provinces, be abated by more "active kinds of huſbandry, and by *dividing* lands "into *ſmaller farms*, it is vain to expect any great "*improvements* in *agriculture*, however proper the "ſoil of *Ireland* be for *tillage*. Perhaps, ſays he, "it would prove a good *expedient* for *dividing* lands "into *ſmaller farms*, if a *law* were made to direct "the building and upholding convenient *houſes* in "the country with *proper portions* of land to be let "to *reſident farmers*, who, under ſome peculiar "title, might be eſtabliſhed among us. That this "might be performed, and would greatly tend to "the *improvement* of *Ireland* will, it is believed, "be readily allowed by every one who gives himſelf "leiſure to think of the matter: And there is too "much reaſon to apprehend, that until ſome *me-* "*thod* be practiſed of *dividing* land into *ſmaller* "*farms* at preſent, all attempts to encourage *tillage*, "or to *force* thoſe who hold *large tracts* of land to "ſow a portion of it with corn, will prove ineffec- "tual." And to the ſame purpoſe, the learned *queriſt* judiciouſly aſks, "If it can be queſtioned, whether "*large farms* under *few* hands, or *ſmall ones* under "*many*, are likely to be made moſt of? And whe- "ther, *tillage* would not naturally *multiply* hands, and "*divide* land into *ſmall holdings*, and thoſe *well-* "*improved*?

But, to all this, it is objected by the *farmers* of *Ireland*, and it is the only *objection* that carries any colour of reaſon in it, that I have ever yet heard mentioned

* *David Bindon* Eſq; in the Preface to his *Tranſlation* of *The Political Eſſay on Commerce*, p. 11.

mentioned upon the ſubject, " that if *tillage* ſhould " be increaſed by a *law* to any conſiderable degree; " then, *grain* of all kinds would ſoon become ſo " plenty, and conſequently cheap, that they would " not be able thereby to pay their rents; which na- " turally leads me to the

II. Propoſition of this *diſſertation*, which was, to ſhew, " that it is not only *prudent* and *expedient*, but " highly *neceſſary* and *beneficial* to *Ireland* in *general*, " as well as to the *particular farmers* thereof, that " *granaries* ſhould be erected in proper places " throughout the kingdom, at the *public expence*, " whereby ſuch *objection* will be fully anſwered.

For, can any thing be more evident, than that " the *enlarging* of *tillage*, would naturally and ne- " ceſſarily introduce *granaries* among us, in order not " only to ſtore up the ſuperfluous corn of a good ſea- " ſon, to ſupply the ſcarcity of a bad one, when it " would bear *a high* price; but alſo, in order to *ex-* " *port* it for the *general good* of the kingdom, as well " as for the *particular profit* of the *farmers* them- " ſelves and *merchants*, whenſoever there ſhould be " a demand for it in other countries?

Corn being from the beginning of the world abſolutely neceſſary for the ſupport of mankind; and the harveſts proving ſometimes ſo bad, as not to produce *ſufficient ſuſtenance* for them, it is reaſonable thence to conclude, that in all ages and countries, they took due care for the keeping and preſerving of the redundancy of grain in good years in proper *ſtore-houſes* or *granaries*, in order to ſupport them in bad ſeaſons. Accordingly, we find, that * *Joſeph* in *Egypt*, during the ſeven years of plenty, gathered a ſufficient ſtock of corn, not for *Egypt* only, but to ſupply the neighbouring countries of *Canaan*, and *Arabia*, and laid it up providently and carefully in *granaries* for that

* Shuckford's Connect.

that purpoſe; and when the ſeven years of *famine* came, whereof he had warned *Pharoah* or *Thuſmares*, he opened his *ſtores*, and by ſelling his *proviſions*, acquired immenſe *riches* for his king, without accepting of the offer made by the *Egyptians*, after they had all exchanged their lands, their money, and cattle for corn, of becoming *Pharoah's ſlaves* for food; being, no doubt, deſirous not only to eſtabliſh a ſufficient *revenue* for the occaſions of the crown, but at the ſame time, to give the ſubjects a *property* of their own, as well as to excite their *induſtry* to improve it, and to raiſe in them a ſenſe of *duty* and *affection* to the government that protected them in the *ſecure* enjoyment of it. Nor were *granaries* only of ſignal *uſe* and *advantage* in this country, both to *prince* and *people*, during the *wiſe miniſtry* of *Joſeph*; but many ages after, we find, that *Egypt* ſo abounded with *corn*, that it was *itſelf*, called *one of the great granaries* of the *Roman* Empire: Nay, ſays * *Pliny*, who was no friend to that country, " that vain people " boaſted heretofore, that *Rome* could not ſubſiſt, but " by the help of *Egypt*; and that they were the " men, who fed their conquerors, and had it in their " power to *ſupply* or *ſtarve* them. † *Diodorus Siculus*, " tells us, that *Attica* in *Greece*, being a barren coun- " try, *Erictbonius*, who probably came from *Egypt*, " being king, taught his people to bring corn from " *Egypt*, and lay it up in *ſtore-houſes* in his own " kingdom, about ſixty-three years after *Cecrops*, " who is ſaid to have been contemporary with " *Moſes*. ‖ *Lycurgus*, obliged the *Helotæ*, or the public ſlaves of the ſtate of *Sparta*, not only to *till* the ground, but alſo to gather the fruits thereof into *ſtore-houſes* or *granaries*, to be thence drawn out for the *public* ſuſtenance of the people. In *Africa*, particularly

* Plin. Pan.
† Diod. Sicul. l. 1.
‖ Plutarch.

particularly in *Mauritania*, as well as in *Sicily*, which abounded with corn, to ſuch a degree, as to be able to furniſh the *Romans* with great quantities of proviſions, there muſt have been many *public granaries*; otherwiſe, they could never have kept and preſerved ſuch vaſt quantities of *corn* from putrefaction, and in a condition fit for exportation. But, notwithſtanding, the *Romans* bought great quantities of corn, as well as collected much *corn* in kind by way of *tax* from their diſtant provinces; yet in the * *portus* or haven of *Rome*, which was eighteen miles diſtant from the city, we find, there were *granaries* erected, wherein the corn brought from other countries was laid up, 'till it could be conveyed to the city; and for this conveyance, there was a *company* or body of watermen upon the *Tyber*, known by the name of *Caudicarii*, and another *company* called *Menſores*, who meaſured the *corn*, when it came into port, and when it was delivered out to be carried up to *Rome*, beſide other officers. Nay, † in *Rome* itſelf, we read, that amongſt the other buildings remarkable for magnificence, were reckoned the *ſhambles* and *public granaries*, which were great ſtructures, of which the inſide formed a great ſquare, ſurrounded with porticoes, and a colonnade, "for, the *Romans*, ſays the author "of the *manners* and *cuſtoms of the Romans*, out of a "wiſe precaution, had uſually corn for a year in "*Rome*, in order to ſupport *plenty*, and not to be "diſtreſſed in times of *dearth*. The price of it was "taxed, and it was ſold out of theſe *granaries*; and "the tribute, which ſome provinces of the empire "paid in *corn*, ſerved to fill theſe *granaries*." And in another place, ſays he, "the grain was carried to "the *public magazines* erected at *Rome*, by way of "precaution againſt *ſcarcity*, and to *perpetuate* plenty "in it." In the time of the commonwealth, after *Perſeus*

* *Howel*'s Hiſtory of the World, v. 2.

† In the Author of the *Manners and Cuſtoms of the* Romans.

Perſeus had been deprived of the kingdom of *Macedon*, and that country had been reduced into a *Roman* province, we read, that † *Gracchus*, being *tribune* of the people, and affecting popularity, paſſed a *law*, by which the *commonwealth*, was to ſupply the *Roman citizens* with corn at a very low price, out of the *public granaries*: and, to the end that this might be exactly done, there was an officer appointed in *Rome*, on purpoſe to take care of the *corn*, called ‖ *præfectus annonæ*, who diſpoſed of it in peculiar *ſtore-houſes*, to be reſerved for the maintenance of the army, or other uſes. *Meſithæus*, the * *præfect* and father-in-law of the emperor *Gordian*, was ſo induſtrious for his maſter in this reſpect, that in the *greater* cities upon the borders of the empire, he cauſed to be laid up ſo much *wheat*, *barley*, &c. as would maintain the army a whole year. † *Severus*, when he died, left ſuch a *ſtock* of corn in the *granaries*, that for ſeven years together, ſeventy-five thouſand *modii* might be ſpent every day. ‡ *Trajan* took care, that there ſhould be always a *ſtock* of *corn* at *Rome* to ſerve, if need were, for eight years: and therefore § *Pliny* tells us, "that he looked upon the great "quantities of *grain* laid up by this emperor to be "equivalent to a *perpetual* donative; and affirms, "that *Pompey*'s care in this very matter turned as much "to his honour, as the *laws* he made againſt bribery in the *election* of *magiſtrates*; his ſcouring the "ſeas of pyrates; or his triumphs over the eaſt or "weſt; and † *Valentinian* the emperor, took great care, that not only *Conſtantinople*, but *Rome*, ſhould be

† In the ſame Author, and App. Alex. de Gracco L. 1.
‖ Cod. Juſt. L. 4. Tit. 46.
* Capitol. in Gord. tert.
† In Not. Imp. Occid. c. 5.
‡ *Howel*'s Hiſtory of the World.
§ Plin. Pan.
† Ann. 364. L. 1. de Conditis in publicis Horreis, Cod. Theod. L. 11. Tit. 14. & L. 1. Cod. Juſt. eodem Titulo.

be ſupplied with proviſions out of the great quantity of *corn* brought yearly from *Sicily*, *Egypt*, and other countries, which were laid up in the *public granaries*.

Thus, *heathen Rome* took particular care by erecting *public granaries*, to have *corn* ſufficient to ſupply the exigencies of the ſtate upon all occaſions; and whenever they failed or neglected to keep their *granaries* well ſtored, mutinies, ſeditions, and inſurrections were frequently the conſequences of ſuch failure or neglect. Nor has *papal chriſtian Rome* been leſs careful in this matter. Every body knows, that throughout all the *Pope*'s dominions, except in thoſe places that have yet preſerved their liberties, * "no perſon whatſoever is ſuffered to ſell *corn* to any ſtrangers, but all thoſe that have any, are obliged to ſell it at a *price certain* to the *eccleſiaſtical chamber*, the great *granary* of modern *Rome*." But then, there is this *wide* difference very obſervable betwixt *ancient* and *modern Rome*, namely, that whereas in *heathen Rome* they ſold their corn out of their *granaries* at a moderate price in times of diſtreſs, or often gave it *gratis* to the people, as appears from the *Lex* § *Sempronia*, and the *Lex* † *Clodia*; it is well known, that *chriſtian Rome* makes no ſcruple to lay very great *impoſitions* upon corn, by which the *Pope* has ruined the moſt part of the *great nobility* and *gentry*, that live on St. *Peter's patrimony*, whoſe revenues

* See the *Appendix* to Biſhop *Burnet's Travels*.

§ The *Lex Impronia*, the Author of which was C. *Sempronius Gracchus*, ordained, that a certain quantity of Corn ſhould be diſtributed every Month among the Commons, ſo much to every man, for which they were only to pay the ſmall Conſideration of a *Semiſſis*, and a *Trieus*. Flor. Epit. Liv. L. 6. Vel. Pat. L. 2.

† The *Lex Cladia*, of which the Author was P. *Clodius*, *Tribune* of the People An. 695, ordained, that thoſe quantities of Corn, which were formerly ſold to the poor People at ſix *Aſſes*, and a *Triens* the Buſhel, ſhould be diſtributed among them *gratis*. Macrob. Saturn. l. 2. c. 14.

venues conſiſted in corn; and yet, all this is done *piouſly* to ſupport the dignity, ſplendor, and magnificence of the *pretended Vicar* of *Chriſt*, who never had an earthly *patrimony* of his own. "At *Rome*, "ſays biſhop *Burnet* in his *travels*, the *Pope* buys in "all the corn of the *patrimony*; for, none of the "*landlords* can ſell it either to *merchants* or *bakers*. "He buys in at five crowns their meaſure, and even "that is ſlowly and ill paid; ſo that, there was "800,000 crowns owing upon that ſcore when I "was at *Rome*. In ſelling this out, the meaſure is "leſſened a *fifth* part, and the price of the whole is "doubled; ſo that, what was bought at *five* crowns "is ſold out at *twelve*." But, *granaries* are not ſo oppreſſively managed at *Geneva*, which tho' but a *little* ſtate, yet, ſays the ſame *Biſhop*, "has ſo many "good *conſtitutions* in it, that the *greateſt* may juſtly "learn at it. The *chamber of the corn* has always two "*years* proviſion for the city in ſtore, and forces "none but the *bakers* to buy of it at a taxed price; "and ſo, it is both neceſſary for any extremities "under which the *ſtate* may fall, and is likewiſe of "great advantage; for, it gives a good yearly in-"come, that has helpt the *ſtate* to pay near a *mil-"lion* of debt contracted during the wars, and the "*citizens* are not oppreſſed by it; for every *inhabi-"tant* may buy his own corn as he pleaſes; only "*public houſes* muſt buy from the *chamber*." In *Genoa*, ſays † *Miſſon*, in ſeveral parts of *France*, in *Flanders* almoſt in every city, in *Poland*, *Dantzick*, *Pruſſia*, *Hanover*, and other electorates of *Germany*, there are *granaries*, which turn greatly to the *advantage* of the *public*, as well as of *particular* perſons. In *Holland*, every body knows, there are vaſt *granaries*; and that the *Dutch* buy *corn* from all countries in *Europe*, when plenty and cheap, and often ſell it in

† *Miſſon's* Voyage to *Italy*, &c. v. 2.

in time of ſcarcity to the very ſame countries again at a dear rate. In *Muſcovy*, as doctor † *Pell* tells us, there are *granaries*, " which they make under ground, " by digging a deep pit of almoſt the figure of a " ſugar loaf, broad below, and narrow at the top; " the ſides well plaiſtered round about, and the top " well covered with ſtone." In *America*, in ſeveral of our own *Plantations*, particularly in *New-England*, there are *granaries* ſo well ſtored with corn, as to be able to ſupply *Ireland* to their own great *advantage*, and our *ſhameful loſs*, as well as other countries of *Europe* when in want of grain: Nay the ſavage *Indians* in that part of the world, are ſaid to lay up *maiz* in ſtore for themſelves againſt winter. But to come nearer home, in *England*, as doctor ‡ *Merrit* tells us, " the twelve *companies* of *London*, and ſome " other *companies*, and private perſons, have their " *granaries* at the *bridge-houſe* in *Southwark*, where " there are a juſtice of peace, a ſteward, and two " maſters, and gives us an exact *plan* thereof, as " well as of others in *Kent* and other places; and " aſſerts, that corn has been kept in *London-grana-* " *ries* thirty-two years; and that the longer 'tis " kept, the more flour it yields in proportion to the " quantity of corn, and makes the purer and whiter " bread; the ſuperfluous humidity only evaporates; " and doctor *Pell* ſays, " that they keep corn at " *Zurick* in *Helvetia* eighty years." But, however that may be, it is certain that in *Ireland* no *public granaries* have been as yet erected; though in the reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, the celebrated ‖ Mr. *Spencer* already mentioned, who wiſely foreſaw the neceſſity of building them in this country, ſays, " but " hereafter, when things ſhall grow into a better " ſtrength, and the country be repleniſhed with " corn,

† Phil. Trans. Abr. by *Lowthorp*, Vol. 2.
‡ Ibidem.
‖ Mr. *Spencer* in *his View* of *Ireland*.

" corn, as in ſhort ſpace it will, if it be well fol-
" lowed; for, the country-people themſelves are
" great *plowers* and ſmall ſpenders of corn, (how different from the *country-men* of the preſent times!)
" then would I wiſh there be good ſtore of *houſes*
" and *magazines* erected in all thoſe great places of
" *garriſon*, and in all great *towns*, as well for the
" victualling of ſoldiers and ſhips, as for all occa-
" ſions of ſudden ſervices, as alſo for preventing at
" all times, *dearth* and *ſcarcity*." In the reign of King *Charles* II. as Sir *Richard Cox*, * tells us, the country being in want of proviſions, " a *proclamati-*
" *on* was iſſued by the government, to appoint *gra-*
" *naries* for wheat and oat-meal in ſeveral parts of
" the kingdom; but we are not informed, whether ſuch *proclamation* had any effect. If it had, it is probable it would have been mentioned. How juſtly therefore may I apply to *Ireland*, what *Solomon* ſaid to the *ſluggard*; † " *Go to the ant, thou ſlug-*
" *gard, conſider her ways and be wiſe; which having no*
" *guide, overſeer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the*
" *ſummer, and gathereth her food in the harveſt. How*
" *long wilt thou ſleep, O ſluggard? when wilt thou ariſe*
" *out of thy ſleep? yet, a little ſleep, a little ſlumber, a*
" *little folding of the hands to ſleep; ſo ſhall thy poverty*
" *come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed*
" *man.*"

Thus does it appear, that *granaries* for corn have in all ages and *wiſe* countries been erected for the ſervice of the *public*, as well as for the benefit and advantage of *particular* perſons. To enumerate all the *benefits* ariſing from them would be endleſs. § A *learned* and *worthy member* of the preſent Houſe of *Commons* of *Ireland* has done it ſo judiciouſly and well

* *Appendix* to *Cox*'s Hiſtory of *Ireland*, An. 1666.
† Prov. 6. c. v. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.
§ *Arthur Dobbs*, Eſq; in his excellent *Eſſay* on the *Trade* and *Improvement of* Ireland.

well, that I need only tranſcribe his words upon the ſubject. After he had propoſed *erecting* and *maintaining granaries* as the only *proper* and *effectual encouragement* to *tillage*, and clearly ſhewn, that they are at the ſame time eqally advantageous to the induſtrious *manufacturer* and *labourer*, by preventing the *unreaſonable* price of proviſions; he goes on and ſays,

" The nation that *erects* and poſſeſſes theſe *granaries* " may, in plentiful ſeaſons, either lay up their own " grain, and preſerve it ſafe from vermin until a " ſcarcity happens; or lay in grain bought abroad, " wherever they find there have been plentiful crops " and cheap markets.

" It is a great happineſs and bleſſing to any " people to live in a climate, where, by the tempe- " rature of the air and goodneſs of the ſoil, they " have plenty of proviſions. At the ſame time it " is their intereſt, that the price ſhould not be ſo " low as to diſcourage the *farmer* to *till* and improve " his grounds; nor a temptation to others, by the " plenty and cheapneſs of proviſions, to live *idly* " and miſpend their time, to the *public loſs* of the " kingdom.

" There is an *equitable* price that proviſions ſhould " be kept at as near as poſſible, to encourage both " the *farmer* and *manufacturer*; that the one may " *improve* his land, and the other *ſell* his manufac- " ture to advantage, and live comfortably by his " labour; and by that means may afford to ſell at " *par* with other nations abroad. This good end " may be obtained by having *granaries* and *laws* to " regulate the price at the buying in, and ſelling out " of them again. For, by them, they can not only " preſerve their grain ſafe from vermin, but ſound " and ſweet for many Years with very little Coſt; " and always have the beſt price for their corn when " markets riſe abroad. And thoſe countries which " have them (where by their ſituation, or number

" of inhabitants they can't be ſupplied at home) by
" their buying cheap from thoſe countries which
" want *granaries*, and for that reaſon are obliged to
" ſell their grain, will ſcarce ever want; when even
" thoſe very nations which ſupply them, by wanting
" *granaries*, in bad ſeaſons may be liable to *famine*
" and great *diſtreſs*,

" Nations that want *granaries* muſt only ſow as
" much grain as will be ſufficient to ſupply them a
" year, or be obliged to let their *corn* periſh, or ſell
" it ſo cheap that the merchant may have profit in
" ſending it abroad. Very often plentiful crops
" happen to be general over a whole *continent*, as it is
" frequently in *Europe*. — There would then be a
" neceſſity of ſelling it cheap, or letting it periſh. —
" It is imprudent to give *præmiums* to export grain
" in order to keep up the market; by which means,
" foreigners who have *granaries* reap the benefit,
" furniſh their manufacturers and tradeſmen cheaper
" than we can do; and often ſend it back again, and
" ſell it at an advanced price to their great advantage.
" On the contrary, ſhould we build *granaries*, we
" need not be afraid of *improving* our lands, and
" raiſing *great quantities* of grain. For, then by
" having it in our power to keep it ſound, ſweet,
" and ſafe from vermin many years, we might al-
" ways have the beſt price going abroad; and in
" caſe of *bad crops*, might be under no apprehenſi-
" ons of want at home; or be forced to give a great
" price for it abroad in our neceſſity. The *abate-*
" *ment* of intereſt would alſo enable us to lodge
" it for a conſiderable time with little loſs, by
" which means, the profit would be the greater
" upon the riſe of the market. We would then
" have an opportunity of exporting it upon the firſt
" notice of a demand abroad; whereas, it frequently
" has happened, that tho' we had plentiful harveſts
" when there was a demand abroad, and merchants

" offered

" offered a conſiderable price, the *farmers* could not " furniſh a cargo in time: But, thoſe countries which " had *granaries*, though at a greater diſtance, anſwer- " ed the demand ſooner, and prevented the ſale of " ours. At other times, the *farmers*, expecting a " greater price, would not ſell; and thus, the king- " dom loſt the benefit of the market."

Another very ingenious * Gentleman, among many other good reaſons aſſigned by him for the building of *granaries* in *Ireland*, obſerves, " That " good *regulations* may be made for ſecuring every " one's property in the ſaid *granaries*, and to keep " the corn in good order, ſuch as they have in " *Dantzick*; and it may be further provided, ſays he, " that every one's ſhare in theſe *granaries* may be a " *living ſtock* to him, and not lie dead upon his " hands at a time when there ſhall be no demand " from abroad: For, it may be ſo ordered, that " any one who ſhall depoſite a thouſand barrels of " wheat there, (or any leſs number), and ſhall bring " a certificate of his ſtock from the overſeer of the " *granary*, may aſſign over the ſame to another for " *two thirds* of the value, paying intereſt for the " ſum advanced. By this means, the *creditor* will " have a ſufficient ſecurity for his money, and the " *farmer*, or *corn-merchant*, be ſupplied with *two* " *thirds* of the value of his corn to anſwer his " preſent occaſions, and not be laid under a neceſſity " of ſelling, until the market at *home* or *abroad* " give him an opportunity of doing it to advantage; " in which caſe, the *creditor* muſt be firſt ſatisfied " before the corn can be removed." And certainly, this would be of infinite ſervice to the *farmers* of *Ireland*, ſince each *granary* might, by ſuch means, become a kind of *bank* or *fund of credit*, and therefore may be ſaid greatly to add to the *current caſh* of the kingdom, in regard *farmers*, upon lodging their

* See Appendix to the *Eſſay on Trade* by the Author of the Liſt of *Abſentees of* Ireland.

grain therein, may with ſafety take up money upon it to pay their rents, or anſwer any other preſſing demands upon them; and *tradeſmen* may lay in their corn when cheapeſt, and take it out again whenſoever they may have occaſion for it, or transfer it to others, as their neceſſities may require. And therefore, "For theſe reaſons, ſays one of our * *Legiſ-* "*lators*, it would be of great ſervice, if the Legiſ- "lature would think of a *fund* to build *granaries* at "the *public expence*, and have them put under a "proper direction for the *good* of the kingdom." And, who can doubt, but that it will be effectually done at this conjuncture, when the reaſons for it are ſo clear and obvious, and the neceſſity ſo great, That his *Grace* the *Duke of* DEVONSHIRE, our good *Lord Lieutenant* has, like a tender *father*, in compaſſion to a poor diſtreſſed kingdom, been pleaſed to recommend the *increaſe of tillage*, which muſt naturally produce *granaries*, to the conſideration of both Houſes of *Parliament*, in his moſt gracious ſpeech from the throne? For, *ſubſcriptions*, I am afraid, will never anſwer ſo deſirable and advantageous an end, in a *poor* country, as propoſed by the two laſt mentioned authors, 'till the gentlemen of *Ireland* in general become as *publick-ſpirited* and true *patriots* as themſelves.

The only reaſon that I have heard mentioned (but which needs no refutation) "Why *granaries* have "not yet been erected among us, though it is "certain, they would always have been of very "great uſe and advantage to us," I ſhall aſſign in the words of the † *tranſlation* of *the Political Eſſay upon Commerce*, lately publiſhed.

"The greateſt *plenty* of corn is almoſt always ſuc- "ceeded by a *dearth*: perhaps, becauſe, the very "low

* *Arthur Dobbs*, Eſq;

† The *Political Eſſay upon Commerce*, tranſlated by *David Bindon*, Eſq;

" low price of corn doth diſcourage the *huſbandman* " from ſowing. Then mighty *projects* are formed " for building *public granaries*, in order to ſecure the " people againſt famine at all events. But theſe " projects, which the *preſent* miſery brought forth, " diſappear by degrees, as the memory of the evil " weareth off; and, too full of the preſent circum- " ſtances, there is little care taken to obviate an " evil which appeareth uncertain when it may come " to paſs; although ten ſucceeding years are ſeldom " ſeen without a ſcarcity of corn."

Thus, my Lord, does it, in my humble apprehenſion, ſufficiently appear, not only from the *practice* of all *wiſe* people in all ages and nations who have erected *public granaries* for the preſervation of their grain; but alſo, from the many and various *benefits* and *advantages* neceſſarily ariſing from them not only to the *public* in general, but alſo to the *farmers* of *Ireland* in particular, if erected, by ſupplying them with *conſtant ſteddy markets*, and *good prices* for their corn, without the expence of carriage to diſtant places, that the *objection* raiſed againſt the *increaſe* of *tillage* by a *Law*, from the *uncertainty* of markets, and cheapneſs of corn if plenty, being without foundation, muſt fall to the ground; and conſequently, That it is not only highly neceſſary to *inlarge* our *tillage*, but alſo *prudent*, *expedient*, and *abſolutely neceſſary*, that *public granaries* ſhould be built at the *public expence* in proper places throughout the kingdom; for the erecting of which, a very ingenious Gentleman has lately publiſhed an effectual *ſcheme*, if it ſhould be thought proper to give attention to it.

I proceed now to the Third Propoſition of this *Diſſertation*, which was,

To examine the *condition*, and ſuggeſt ſome *hints* for *regulating* the *poor* of *Ireland*, by *employing* ſome, and *ſupporting* others, according to their *ſeveral* capacities.

And, upon this head, I muſt beg leave to apply myſelf in a *particular* manner to your *Grace*, who have not only approved of *ſupporting* the *poor* in others as well as *exemplified* it yourſelf on all occaſions; but, who are alſo in ſome ſort concerned, as Lord *Almoner* of *Ireland*, to promote and further any methods for the better *regulating*, *employing*, and *maintaining* them, which, upon due examination, may appear rational and juſt, conducive to the *Honour* of GOD, and the *Public Good* of the kingdom. And the reaſon why, I think, the caſe of the *poor* ought to be at this time more eſpecially taken into *ſerious* conſideration, is, not only out of *charity* to them, but *kindneſs* to ourſelves; becauſe, ſhould it be delayed for any conſiderable time, the kingdom will certainly be then brought under a neceſſity of doing it at a far *greater* expence and trouble than at preſent; as it happened to the people of *England*, who, neglecting to make *timely regulations* and *proviſions* for their *poor*, had them ſo inſenſibly, but greatly, increaſed, as laid them under an abſolute neceſſity at laſt to endeavour to put a ſtop to the grievance by making a law for a *poor-rate*, which they now complain of as a burden.

That *Ireland* has always abounded with *poor*, but eſpecially for the two years *laſt* paſt, is a truth that cannot be denied. But then, theſe *poor* appear to me to be of two different ſorts, 1*ſt*. ſuch as are *able* to labour, but complain they cannot get work, or rather are *unwilling* to be employed: And 2*dly*, ſuch as are *really* groaning under *poverty* and *want*, and are quite *unable* to ſupport themſelves by any *honeſt* means in their own power. That there are vaſt numbers of the former ſort, or ſuch as are *capable* of being employed, is evident to every man in the kingdom that is not blind; nor will the *publick* as well as *private* evils and miſchiefs, ariſing from the *idle lives* and *practices* of ſuch *ſtrong* and *able* beggars, upon examination, appear leſs evident

to

to any conſidering perſon. But, theſe are ſo judiciouſly and truly deſcribed by the *learned member of the preſent houſe of commons* ſo often mentioned, that I ſhall only enumerate them in his own words. " * The hurt, ſays he, this kingdom ſuffers from " the number of *idle and ſturdy vagrants* is greater " than is commonly imagined. It is not eaſy to " give a detail of the ſeveral *arts* and *ſtratagems* " they uſe, to induce the opulent and induſtrious to " be charitable to them. They are an oppreſſion " to the truly *induſtrious poor*, who endeavour to " maintain their *families* and ſupport the *publick*; " from whom they extort ſomething out of *com-* " *paſſion*, and frequently, when they find women " alone, by *force*. They appear in various forms, " moſtly affected, or brought upon them by par- " ticular management, as blind, lame, dumb, " diſtorted, with running ſores, pretended fits, " and other diſorders. They frequently pretend " loſs by *fire*, or to have numerous families lying " *ſick*. They exerciſe the greateſt barbarities upon " children, either their own or thoſe they pick up, " by blinding them, or breaking and disjointing " their limbs when they are young, to make them " objects of compaſſion and charity. Not to men- " tion their *debauching* the girls when grown up, " who go about big bellied, pretending their " huſbands are *dead* or *ſick*, and they have them to " maintain : Nor the *robberies* and *thefts* they " commit ; and the *lewdneſs*, *debauchery* and *drunk-* " *enneſs* that is to be found among them in their " merry-meetings. And, to ſum up all; ima- " gine the moſt *complicated* ſcene of wickedneſs in " low life, and it will be found among them.

" But this is not all ; the *hardſhips* they put " upon thoſe who are *real objects* of compaſſion " almoſt equal their *other crimes:* For, by the be-

 " haviour

* *Arthur Dobbs*, Eſq ;

" haviour and tricks of theſe *vagrants*, the relief " and charity due to the *induſtrious poor*, is ſo " cooled by not knowing where to diſpoſe of it " properly, that *real objects* are often left without " relief. With many it is a moot point, whether " it be not *a greater* duty to the publick, and " charity to the induſtrious poor, not to give to " ſtroling beggars, than to give; tho' there are ob- " jects of compaſſion among them: For, theſe " could not fail of relief if they ſtaid where they " were known; but becauſe they ſtrole about " with others, where it can't be known who are the " *real objects* of compaſſion, they ought to be " deemed equally cheats with the others; this giv- " ing encouragement to other *idle* and *diſſolute* " perſons to join them, and propagate a race of " *thieves* and *robbers*; and they and their *ill-educated* " progeny, diffuſing the contagion of *idleneſs* and " *ſloth* over all the country.

" It is not only the money, proviſions, and cloath- " ing they get from the rich and induſtrious, " and the many irregularities they commit, " that is deſtructive to the nation; but the *want* " of their *labour* is a very conſiderable *loſs*, to the " *publick*; of which I will here make a groſs eſti- " mate. There are two thouſand two hund- " red and ninety five pariſhes in the kingdom. " I think, I am within bounds when I ſuppoſe " ten *vagrants begging* in each pariſh at a *medium* " the whole year round, and above thirty for three " or four months in ſummer, when many more " come abroad: For, many pariſhes are ſo large as " to take them three or four days to beg through " the pariſh; and yet, few *houſe-keepers* have leſs " than that number at their doors according to the " time of the year, unleſs in very *plentiful* ſeaſons. " So that, we may compute the *medium* in each " pariſh for the whole year at fifteen, and con- " ſequently, there are thirty four thouſand, four

" hundred

" hundred and twenty five *ſtroling beggars* in the
" kingdom, of which there are not *one* in *ten*
" *real* objects; for, the greateſt number of theſe
" ſtay in their pariſhes. So that, we may ſuppoſe
" thirty thouſand of them *able* to work; and com-
" puting their labour at 4d. *per* day, and alow-
" two hundred and eighty four working days in
" the year, each might gain by their work 4 l.
" 14 s. 8 d. *per annum.* This, upon the *whole*
" number, would amount to 142,000 l. annually,
" which is juſt ſo much money loſt to the king-
" dom in the way of *trade.*

" To make this article ſomewhat clearer, I
" will ſhew, how the above increaſe of *Beggars*
" happens in the ſummer ſeaſon. It is very
" well known, that great numbers of the *native*
" *Iriſh* in the mountainous parts of the king-
" dom, that have *houſes* and ſmall *farms*, by
" which they might *very well* maintain them-
" ſelves; when they have ſown their corn, plant-
" ed their potatoes, and cut their turf for firing,
" do either *hire* out their cows or *ſend* them
" to the mountains; then ſhut up their doors
" and go a begging the whole ſummer until
" harveſt, with their wives and children, in
" the moſt tattered and moving condition they
" can appear in, and diſperſe themſelves over
" all the *richeſt* parts of the kingdom. This
" practice has been ſo much incouraged of late
" by the ſucceſs theſe *ſtrolers* have met with,
" that in ſeveral places many who pay at leaſt
" 4 l. *per annum* rent, hire three or four *ſervants*,
" and give to each of them 3 l. for their *chance*
" of the ſummer's begging. Theſe have their
" fixed ſtations from time to time, where to
" *beg*, and where to *rendezvous*, to divide their
" booty; having houſes appointed where they
" pay for their lodging, and give a gratuity for
" being aſſiſted in diſpoſing of the meal or any

" thing

" thing elſe they get by *begging* or *ſtealing*.
" Theſe *ſervants* are accountable to their ma-
" ſters out of their wages, if they are found out
" to imbezzle or drink any where at their ex-
" pence : Thus, they pick up enough to pay
" their rent, and by the help of their cattle,
" corn, and potatoes, *idle* the whole winter. Theſe
" are facts undeniable, ſome having been caught
" who have confeſſed this *whole* matter.

" Since this *trade of begging* has become ſo
" general, and proves eaſie and beneficial to them,
" it has been known, that *ſervants* have quit
" their ſervice and have gone a *ſtroling* with them ;
" and *day-labourers* have quit their labour and
" refuſed to be *employed*, giving it for a reaſon,
" that they get more by *begging* than they get by
" *working*. And the children of many *ſmall*
" *farmers*, tho' they are ſettled in *farms* where
" they may live comfortably, have frequently ſo
" little *conſcience* as to allow their *parents* when
" grown old, to go about as *vagrants*, without
" giving them any more relief than they would
" give to *common beggars*. Sure, theſe are abuſes
" not to be ſuffered in a *civilized* country. Our
" *laws*, tho' good, are diſuſed and neglected for
" want of *ſufficient penalties*. Should any particu-
" lar *juſtice of the peace* exert himſelf now in
" executing the *laws* againſt them, by having
" them whip'd out of the pariſh he reſides in,
" it would be of no benefit, ſince others won't
" do the ſame. He would only loſe the *good*
" *will* of the country by it, and be called *cruel*
" and *ſevere*. If he inclined to ſend them to
" the *houſe of correction*, I may ſay, that, thro'
" diſuſe, there is no ſuch *houſe* now to be found.
" It ſeems at this time to be looked upon only
" as a *favour* granted by the country to ſome
" perſon who has *ſufficient intereſt* to have his
" family maintained and his houſe repaired at

" the

" the *publick expence*: For, *vagabonds* are no ſooner " ſent in, but they are allowed to *run* away again, " in caſe they have any *bribe* to give; or if not, " it is too much trouble to the *maſter*, to oblige " them to work; ſo, he *connives* at their eſcape, " and makes *intereſt* enough not to be called " to an account at the next *quarter ſeſſions*. Thus, " our *laws* are at preſent evaded, and their *ex-* " *ecution* ſlubber'd over ".

Now, in all wiſe ſtates, *idleneſs* and *ſloth* have been always diſcouraged; human labour being deemed the true ſource of wealth, and therefore, *idle vagrants* and *ſturdy beggars* have been conſtantly treated with ſeverity by them. *Valentinian* the II. when emperor of *Rome* directed a law to *Severus* the *præfect* of that city for baniſhing thence all *luſty* and *ſturdy beggars*. " The great- " neſs of the place, ſays a * great *hiſtorian* afforded " now ſuch reception and concealment to multitudes " of people, that *ſlaves* and *labourers* who were " weary of ſervice reſorted thither out of the *pro-* " *vinces*, hoping to find ſhelter for their *ſloth*; which " thing, very inconvenient at all times, was *now* " the more intolerable, for that, in thoſe days, " this *city* was often *pinched* with *want*; and this " conſtrained the magiſtrates to expel the town " all *vagrants* and *uſeleſs* perſons. The † emperor " orders, that thoſe *beggars* be diſcovered, appre- " hended, and ſearched, whether they were *health-* " *ful* and able to work; if ſuch they were found, " and diſcovered to be of *ſervile* condition, they " ſhould be forced back to *ſlavery*; if found to " be *free* but in ſervice, that they ſhould be re- " manded to that perpetual ſervice or labour at " *huſbandry* called *colonatus*; and ſo, both ſorts " remain

* *Howel*'s hiſtory of the World. V. 2.——An. 382.

† L. 11. de mendicantibus non invalidis. Cod. Th. l. 14. Tit 18 et l. unico Cod. Juſt. eodem titulo.

" remain either *ſlaves* or *ſervants* to the diſcoverers ;
" which was an *effectual* courſe to have the city
" ſwept of ſuch *vermine*. We may add, that the
" *Chriſtian religion*, by its principles and precepts
" inclining the profeſſors thereof to more than
" common charity, ſuch *rogues* abuſed the opportu-
" nity which the *truly poor* and *indigent* thence had
" for relief, and beſieged thoſe places about the
" *vatican* and the church of the *apoſtles* eſpecially,
" where they wrought by their *hypocritical* com-
" plaints upon thoſe that were compaſſionately in-
" clined, whether *eccleſiaſticks* or others." And St. *Ambroſe*, the learned biſhop of *Milan*, writing hereof, at this very time, adviſes clergymen not to employ their charity upon *ſuch undeſerving* perſons, but to be careful and circumſpect upon whom it was they beſtowed their alms. The emperor * *Honorius* alſo commanded " all *barbarians* or foreigners, and
" all *idle* perſons that haunted booths, victualling-
" houſes, and places of worſe character, and all
" others of inferior note, if they had no *buſineſs* or
" *employment*, to quit the city under pain of *depor-*
" *tation*."

Thus, the *Romans*, and indeed all other *wiſe* governments have always diſcouraged *idleneſs* and *ſloth*, and as conſtantly encouraged *labour* and *induſtry*, and ſtill continue the ſame practice. † " A traveller who
" carefully examined the different governments of
" *Aſia* and *Europe* hath obſerved, that he never
" was miſtaken in meaſuring their *polity*, according
" to the manner in which *idleneſs* is regarded a-
" mong them; and that the countries in which
" there were *beggars* came neareſt to *barbarity*." And another hath upon the ſame occaſion ſaid, " To
" deſire to live without working is a crime ; becauſe,
" it

* Cod. Theod. L. 14. Tit. 11. Anno 397.
† See Tranſlation of the Political Eſſay on Commerce.

" it is a *continual robbery* committed upon a nation. " The *trade* of a *beggar*, a *ſchool of thievery*, to which " there are only wanting letters of licence, encreaſeth, " and is perpetuated from father to ſon almoſt by " hereditary right. For, the ſon really ſucceedeth " the father in ſtations remarkable for a plentiful " harveſt of alms. This toleration is the more in- " excuſable, when we conſider, how eaſy it is to " deſtroy the *trade* of *beggars*, and how advanta- " geous it would be to make them labour. The " law (he means of *France*) puniſheth *beggars* by " this alone, that they are looked upon as *vaga-* " *bonds*; why ſhould we wait until they become " *thieves* and *robbers*, and put them under the ne- " ceſſity of periſhing by the hands of executioners?

The *Dutch* have brought their *poor* under ſuch *regulations* that there is ſcarcely a *beggar* to be ſeen in the whole *united Provinces*, though they have no reſource for ſupport, but their own labour. For, to the end that no other nation may underwork them, they take all imaginable care to keep all kinds of *materials* for manufactures as low as poſſible, and lay their *taxes* upon meat and drink, and ſuch things as the people cannot ſubſiſt without, very well knowing, that *hunger* and *cold* will make people work to ſupply their neceſſities. * In *Amſterdam*, they have a *Raſp-houſe* for the correction of idle and ſtroling perſons, where they are obliged to work; every one having his occupation and taſk aſſigned him, which he muſt punctually perform under the penalty of whipping. Stubborn offenders are ſaid to be put into a dark cellar where they muſt pump inceſſantly; otherwiſe, the cellar would in a quarter of an hour be filled with water, and they, by conſequence, be in danger of drowning. And, as to *female vagrants*, they have a *Spin-houſe* for them, where they both *employ* and *puniſh* them, according to

* Miſſon's Voyage.

to their deſerts. *Flanders* and *Hambourgh* purſue the ſame methods for ſuppreſſing *idleneſs* and *beggary*. In *England*, Queen *Elizabeth* made good *laws* for reſtraining *vagrants*, *ſturdy beggars*, and all *looſe*, *idle*, *diſorderly* people, by erecting *work-houſes* in ſeveral counties of the kingdom, in order to keep them to hard labour. Her *wiſe Miniſtry* conſidered the *advantages* that would accrue to the nation by *reforming* the *looſe manners* of the *meaner* people, and *employing* them in ſuch profitable works and manufactures as would inrich the kingdom and render it conſiderable by enlarging their *trade* and ſupplying foreign markets with the various products of the country; being truly ſenſible, that the turning the practice of this ſort of people from *idleneſs* to *labour* is alſo turning their minds and inclinations from *vice* to *virtue*. Some few other *regulations* were added in the reign of King *James* I. as well as in the reigns of King *Charles* I. and II. and many good ones were added in the reigns of King *William* and Queen *Ann* for ſtrengthening the former *laws* and keeping the *poor* in their proper ſettlements, ſtrictly enjoining the *juſtices of the peace*, *conſtables*, and other *officers* to put the ſeveral *laws* in execution, and for levying ſundry *fines* to which they were liable.

The *magiſtrates* of *Briſtol*, if I am rightly informed, have that city under ſuch excellent *regulation*, that no foreign *beggars* dare appear in it. They are not troubled there with ſhocking ſights ſo common in *Ireland*. Their *work-houſes* are terrible enough to keep all *vagrants* at a diſtance from them; for, as ſoon as any of them are eſpied in the city, they are taken up and ſeverely whipt. And wherever *work-houſes* have been built in *England*, if well managed, the *pariſh-rates* have been, as I am told, very much leſſened. And certainly, in any country whatſoever, when the *maſters* of ſuch *work-*

houſes

houſes come to be experienced in the ſeveral employments to which the *poor* are fit to be put, and perform their duty with *integrity* and *care*, there would be very little occaſion to waſte the *pariſh-money* upon perſons that are *able* to labour. For, even children would ſoon come to ſpin, or do ſomething for a maintainance, as they are obliged to do in *Holland*. Now, if other countries of *Europe*, but *England* in particular, have reaped great advantages by ſuch *work-houſes*, is it not a great pity that ſo *profitable* an *inſtitution* is not made general in *Ireland* by an *act of parliament*; that ſo, there might be no pretence for any *vagrants* and *ſturdy beggars* to appear among us? Has not *Ireland* always abounded with *able-bodyed ſtrollers* who make a *trade* of *begging* by day, and of *robbing* or *ſtealing* by night, to the great *grievance* and *terror* of all honeſt people in the country, as well as in towns and cities; and is not the *evil* increaſing more and more upon us every day? Have they not of late by their *dirt* and *naſtineſs* carried *infection* from place to place, 'till they ſpread it through the *whole* kingdom? For theſe reaſons probably, it was given in charge at the laſt *viſitation* of that *great* and *learned prelate* the *metropolitan* of the province of *munſter*, that all clergymen ſhould endeavour to find means of ſupporting the *poor* of their own reſpective *pariſhes*, and uſe their power and influence to baniſh all *vagrants* and *ſturdy beggars* out of the country, whom that Prelate's own *exemplary charity* had drawn into his *dioceſs* from all parts of the province.

Sir *Matthew Hale* wrote a *treatiſe*, wherein he laid down methods for erecting *work-houſes*, and good *rules* for the *government* of them, and propoſed, that the *Juſtices*, at their *quarter-ſeſſions*, might diſtribute the *pariſhes*, in their ſeveral counties, into ſeveral diviſions, in each of which there might be a *work-houſe* for the uſe of their reſpective diviſions, that is to ſay, two, three, four, or

five

five pariſhes to a *work-houſe*, according to the greatneſs or ſmallneſs of the pariſhes, wherein they are placed. And, I ſubmit it to your *Grace*, and to all true friends of *Ireland*, whether ſuch *charity-work-houſes* (I do not mean, ſuperb edifices, or ſtately ſtructures, but *ordinary* convenient houſes) ought not to be built in the *church-yards* of every pariſh, or union of pariſhes, at the expence of ſuch pariſh, or union of pariſhes, throughout the kingdom, by way of *ceſs* or *pariſh-tax*, to be levied by *act of veſtry*; or by ſome other *effectual* method? Whether *two overſeers* ought not to be choſen every *Eaſter-week* yearly by the majority of the *Proteſtant*-inhabitants of every pariſh, or union of pariſhes, if the *church-wardens* ſhould not be thought proper perſons, to inſpect, manage, and take care of ſuch *work-houſes*, and be ſworn *immediately* into their office under *ſevere* penalties; and ſuch *overſeers* be put under the direction of the miniſter of every pariſh, or union of pariſhes; part of whoſe *ſacred office* it was *originally*, not only to keep *hoſpitality*, but to take particular care of the *poor* and *neceſſitous* within his pariſh? Whether, proper *maſters* for ſuch *work-houſes* ought not to be ſought for, and choſen by ſaid *miniſters* and *overſeers*, and a ſmall ſalary allowed them yearly, to be levied on ſaid pariſh, or union of pariſhes, in the ſame manner with the *pariſh-taxes* already allowed by law; and whether, proper *regulations* ought not to be thought of, for the good government of ſaid houſes? Whether the *Truſtees* of the *linen-manufacture*, thoſe *patriots* of their country, upon proper application made to them, would not in many places ſupply ſuch *work-houſes* with a ſtock of *hemp* and *flax* to employ the perſons lodged in them; or, whether the *miniſter* of each pariſh, or union of pariſhes, ought not to allow a certain proportion of his *tythe-hemp* and *flax* to be appropriated to the uſe and ſupport of ſuch *work-houſes*? And here, I will be bold to ſay, it can never be *juſtly* preſumed,

preſumed, that ſo learned, pious, and charitable a body as the *clergy* of *Ireland* will fail to do their part in ſo great, and good, and glorious a work. Or, if this ſhould be found impracticable, Whether it would be a hardſhip upon each pariſh, or union of pariſhes, to furniſh ſuch *work-houſes* at firſt with neceſſaries for lodging and feeding ſuch perſons as ſhould be put into them, as well as with *materials* for working, by a contingent ceſs?

Whether the *owners* of *flax* and *hemp* raiſed in the country, would not readily ſupply the *maſters* of ſuch *work-houſes* with *flax* and *hemp* to be prepared and made fit for ſale, and pay them for the work at the ſame rate that they can get it done for by others; or elſe, ſell the *maſters* the *flax* or *hemp* rough at an eaſy price, and give them time for payment, 'till they have fitted it for ſale? Whether if a *law* were made for the *enlarging* of *tillage*, and erecting of *granaries*, and in conſequence thereof, ten thouſand acres were *tilled* in addition to our *ordinary tillage* yearly throughout the kingdom, would not ſuch additional *tillage* at a moderate computation employ thirty thouſand of thoſe *idle ſtrollers* who now complain for want of employment; and would not *their labour* amount to a *vaſt* ſum annually, which would be ſo much clear gain to the kingdom; or, may not ſuch *tillers* or other *farmers* be furniſhed upon occaſion with numbers of *labourers* out of ſuch *work-houſes* to do their buſineſs, of which they are ſo capable, and with which they are ſo well acquainted? Whether all *vagrants*, after due notice given to repair to their own reſpective pariſhes, ought not to be taken up, put into ſaid *work-houſes*, obliged to work ſuch *materials* as ſhall be given them, and in caſe of *obſtinacy*, *refractorineſs*, or other *miſdemeanor*, be duly corrected and puniſhed at the diſcretion of ſaid overſeers? Whether, if ſuch *work-houſes* were erected, all *ſtrolling* and *wandering beggars* would not haſten to their own reſpective countries, in order to

find out ſome way to ſupport and maintain themſelves? Whether, the *cheats* and *vagabonds* in diſguiſe would not think it high time to alter their courſe of life, in order to prevent their being ſent to ſuch *work-houſes*, and betake themſelves to ſome *honeſt* employments? And, to mention no more of the *benefits* that muſt neceſſarily ariſe from the erecting of ſuch *work-houſes*, would not the *poor* who are *unable* to work, and are *real* objects of compaſſion, in all human probability, be *great gainers* by theſe or the like *regulations?* which leads me to conſider, in the *laſt* place, their particular deplorable caſe.

That we have great numbers of *poor* who are *old*, *blind*, *lame*, or labouring under ſome *grievous infirmity*, whereby they are rendered abſolutely *unable* to work and *ſupport* themſelves, I need not endeavour to prove. The cries of ſuch wretched objects in every ſtreet, and their groans at every door both in city and country, may ſave me that labour. Theſe, by the *laws* of nature and common humanity as well as by the principles and precepts of the *chriſtian* religion, we ought and are *obliged* to aſſiſt, ſupport, and maintain; God Almighty having reſerved their maintenance as a *rent-charge* on the eſtates of the opulent; and therefore, in all *chriſtian* and *civilized* countries in the world we find ſuch *wretched creatures* have been by ſome method or other always preſerved from periſhing by want.

Now, in *Ireland*, if *work-houſes* were built to employ the *ſturdy beggars* and *vagrants* that abound among us, as propoſed, I ſhall ſubmit it to your *Grace*, and to every rational man in the kingdom, whether ſuch as are *unable* to work and are *real* objects of charity might not be eaſily *ſupported* in, and by their own reſpective pariſhes? Sir *William Petty* has obſerved, * "That there is but one in five hundred at

* See Notes on the *Political Eſſay on Commerce* by *David Bindon*, Eſq;

" at moſt, who is blind, lame, and under incurable
" impotence. So that, if there be two millions of
" people in this kingdom, there are not above four
" thouſand who are thus circumſtanc'd; and they
" ought to be maintained in their ſeveral countries.
" This might be done with great eaſe and much leſs
" expence than is generally imagined. For, it muſt
" be conſidered, that many of thoſe *impotents* are
" in families which do not want the aſſiſtance of the
" *public* to maintain them. But, ſays he, as to
" thoſe perſons, who through *idleneſs* become *beg-*
" *gars* and *infeſt* our ſtreets, it is eaſy to conceive,
" that they might be *regulated* after ſuch a manner
" as to make them *earn* enough to feed them in a
" decent manner.

Now, in order the better to ſupport the *really impotent*, I ſubmit it to your *grace's* conſideration, whether ſuch ought not to be *badged* in every pariſh or union of pariſhes throughout the kingdom in ſuch numbers as ſhall appear proper to the *Miniſter* and *overſeers*, provided they have been reſident eighteen months at leaſt in ſaid pariſhes? Whether, to the end that ſuch *Pariſh-Poor* may be regularly *badged*, a *veſtry* ought not to be called in every pariſh or union of pariſhes to agree upon a proper number of *badges* to be made of *lead* at the *pariſh-charge*, with the firſt letter of the name of the pariſh on each of them; and a day *fixed* to have them ready and put upon the backs or arms of ſuch as ſhall be found objects duly qualified to receive them? Whether, the *miniſter* ought not to give public notice in the church next lord's-day after ſuch *badges* are provided, of a *certain day*, to examine carefully into the *conditions* of ſuch *poor*, as reſide in ſaid pariſh, and are *abſolutely incapable* of working; and whether the *pariſhioners* for their *own ſakes*, would not probably take care, that no *cheats* or *counterfeits*, ſhould be allowed to be *badged?* Whether a *charge* ſhould not be given to ſuch *poor* as ſhall be *badged*, not to go beyond

the limits of their own reſpective pariſh, or union of pariſhes, on penalty of being ſtripp'd of their *badges*, and ſeverely puniſhed, if found begging in any other pariſhes? Whether this *privilege* of *begging*, together, with the *offerings* and *collections* made in our *churches*, under theſe, and the like *regulations*, would not probably make a *ſufficient* proviſion in moſt places for the *real poor* of the kingdom; and if not, whether ſuch *poor*, as are not *able* to *beg* or *work*, ought not to be put into ſome little apartments in ſaid *work-houſes*, if they have no habitations of their own, and be there ſupported at the expence of the pariſh, as in an *hoſpital?* And, to add no more, whether all this be not a *work* within our *own power*, and may not be *eaſily* carried into execution; and therefore, ought not the *experiment* to be *ſpeedily* made; or ſome *better method* deviſed to relieve the *preſſing* neceſſities of ſuch as are periſhing for want?

Thus, my lord, have I taken leave to lay ſome of my ſentiments, as well as the ſentiments and arguments of others, on theſe important ſubjects, in an *haſty*, and therefore *confuſed* manner before your *grace*; however, I ſhall ſubmit it to your *grace*, as well as to the *public*, "Whether, in order to make "ſome men *ſee* and *feel*, it be not *often* neceſſary to "inculcate the very ſame things upon, and place "them in different lights before, them?

A fertile land together with the *frugality* and *induſtry* of it's inhabitants has been always, and muſt for ever be allowed to be *funds* of wealth to any nation, if duly *cultivated* and *improved*. Is not *Ireland* for the moſt part, a very *fertile* ſoil, in a good climate; as capable of improvement of all kinds, as any country in *Europe*; and as well ſituated by nature for *trade* and *commerce?* And yet, is there any country in *Europe* wherein the common people generally labour more under *want* and *miſery*; who are more *indolent* and *ſupine*; who have a greater *averſion* to *arts* and *induſtry*; who love *idleneſs*, *dirt*,

and

and *naſtineſs* to a greater degree; who ſo contrive, as to be *impoveriſhed* by their own *trade*; and who have ſo many *able idle hands* among them; and yet, are obliged to *America*, and other countries for bread? In a word, "was there ever, ſays a great * Author, "in any part of the *chriſtian* or *civilized* world, a "country in ſo *poor* and *wretched* circumſtances, and "which at the ſame time could be ſo *eaſily* remedi-"ed, and yet the remedy not applied, though in "our *own* hands? If therefore, the people will not "*think* for themſelves, is it not incumbent on the "*public* to *think* for them?" *Can private* endeavours without proper *laws*, and ſome *aſſiſtance* from the *public*, inlarge *tillage*, erect *granaries*, promote *induſtry*, *employ* and *ſupport* our *poor*, or advance our *manufactures* and *commerce* to any conſiderable degree, contrary to the *very genius* and *inclinations* of the people? If what the author of the *political eſſay on commerce* ſays be true, "that all that *morality* can ſay againſt "idleneſs in *France*, will be inſufficient, until it be "made a *ſtate* or *capital* crime, as being the *root* of "all other crimes; what will make the *natives* of *Ireland*, the moſt *lazy* and *indolent* people in the world, *induſtrious?* Has not the *public* therefore a right to employ thoſe in ſome ſhape or other for the good of the community, who *cannot* perhaps, though *able* and *in health*, or who *will not* find proper employment for themſelves? And ought not the *public* by ſome *method* or other, to *ſupport* thoſe unhappy *human* creatures, who are *abſolutely unable* to ſupport themſelves? To reclaim barren lands, and make them profitable by *tillage*, is, to conquer new countries, without making any one man therein miſerable. "Corn, ſays a *French* author, is the *baſis* of trade, "becauſe it is the neceſſary ſupport of life, and the "providing thereof, ought to be the *firſt* care of the "legiſlature." I ſhall conclude with the words of the

* The *Queriſt*.

the learned *queriſt*, " whether in all public *inſtitutions* " there ſhould not be an *end* propoſed, which is to " be the *rule* and *limit* of the means? Whether this " *end* ſhould not be the *well-being of the whole*; and " Whether, in order to this, the firſt ſtep ſhould not " be, to *employ*, *cloath*, and *feed* the people? Whe- " ther, to *provide* plentifully for the *poor*, be not " feeding the *root*, the ſubſtance whereof, will ſhoot " upwards into the *branches*, and cauſe the *top* to " flouriſh?

Salus populi ſuprema lex eſto.

I am, My LORD,

Your GRACE'S *moſt dutiful, moſt faithful*

and moſt obedient, (though unknown)

humble Servant,

PUBLICOLA.

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